

Israeli soldiers protect settler drug crops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers sent to guard Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip have complained of having to protect marijuana crops grown there, the daily Maariv reported Friday. Soldiers who carried out reserve duty in the south of the mainly Palestinian-controlled Strip were quoted by the newspaper as saying settlers employ Thai workers to grow the crops in greenhouses in the colonies. "It's an absurd situation when reservist soldiers carrying out three weeks of duty have to protect from the Palestinians marijuana plants grown by Thais," one officer was quoted as saying. "It's not really our job. There's a red line which should not be crossed. Even commanders know of the marijuana crops," he said. A military spokesman said the army was not aware of such crops in the Gush Katif bloc of settlements near the Egyptian border.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
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Israeli official grilled over \$10 million fraud

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The head of the Israeli tax service is being questioned over allegations he connived in fiscal fraud worth \$10 million, police said Friday. Doron Levy, accused of undervaluing the assets of a U.S. real estate company, allowing it to benefit from huge tax breaks, was questioned by police for 10 hours Thursday and warned his testimony may be used against him. The company, the Holyland, which builds in Jerusalem, had its property estimated at one fifth of its real value of around \$60 million when it became an Israeli company, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported. Police say Mr. Levy turned a blind eye to three other fraudulent transactions in which the father of his deputy was involved.

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Netanyahu promises more power to settlers in Golan World will forget U.N. resolution in 5-10 years — Israeli prime minister

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he believed that in five years the world would forget the U.N. resolution condemning his settlement policies in the Palestinian territories.

"In five to 10 years the whole world will have forgotten the U.N. resolution," calling for an end to Israeli settlement building in the occupied territories, Mr. Netanyahu told Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights.

He promised those settlers living on the Golan Heights, numbering some 16,000, that he would strengthen their presence on the plateau seized from Syria 30 years ago.

Mr. Netanyahu said "the future of the Golan is linked to the future of the country and we prefer generally to speak less and do more."

"We are renovating the Ariq Bridge so it will be easier to travel. That too we decided today and among other things we approved the establishment of a hotel in Hammat Gader," he said, referring to a holiday spot on the Golan.

"The Golan is being developed non-stop and it is our intention to continue on that path," Mr. Netanyahu said.

The U.N. General Assembly Tuesday passed a resolution recommending that member states "actively discourage activities which directly contribute" to the building of Jewish settlements in occupied territories, including Arab east Jerusalem.

The vote was carried by 131 votes to three, with 14 abstentions.

Mr. Netanyahu's defence minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, appealed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to resume peace talks severed 17 months ago. Damascus demands the return of the heights but Mr. Netanyahu wants to keep them.

"I appeal again to Assad to renew the negotiations. We must look each other in the eye, put the main subjects on the table and discuss them seriously," Mr. Mordechai told reporters in remarks broadcast on Israeli Radio on Friday.

Settlers at the Golan rally cheered Labour opposition leader Ehud Barak when he embraced the land-for-peace offer made to Arabs by murdered Labour Prime

Meretz considers giving east Jerusalem to Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's left-wing opposition Meretz Party said Friday it has considered but rejected a proposal to divide Jerusalem into a Palestinian capital in the east and an Israeli capital in the west. It is the first time a Zionist political party has even considered making such a plan part of its votes to 13 with two abstentions. Party leader and MP Yossi Sarid said he feared it would alienate public opinion. Meretz, which has nine deputies in the 120-seat parliament, has criticised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to build a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem but has remained vague over the future status of the disputed city.

Meanwhile, Israeli intelligence claimed it has collected evidence proving a senior Palestinian police commander ordered a squad under his command to ambush Israeli cars in the West Bank, a government official said Friday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli had electronically intercepted the orders handed down from Gazan Palestinian police chief, Brig. Gen. Ghazi Japaiti to West Bank police officer, Col. Jihad Masami.

Three Palestinian policemen armed with Israeli-made Uz submachine guns and in possession of plans to ambush Israeli cars near Jewish settlements in the West Bank were arrested by Israel, the official said.

Gen. Masami denied the policemen were on their way to attack Israelis and said Israel was merely trying to stop the Palestinian police from pursuing Palestinians who had collaborated with Israel.

Minister Yitzhak Rabin: "I haven't come to instil delusions of a peace without a price, a deluxe peace without concessions or compromises and tough dilemmas. To my regret there is no such thing as that and whoever will tell you otherwise is dealing in slogans and delusion," Mr. Barak said.

"The depth of the withdrawal is as the depth of peace and, I would add, especially the security

arrangements and early warning system. It's not a simple formula and it won't be easy to reach peace on the basis of it but it's the only chance."

Avi Zira, chairman of the Golan Communities Council, assailed Mr. Barak's remarks, telling army radio: "It was hutzpa (nerve) of the highest level, a lack of taste and I imagine the Labour Party will go on paying the price for this."

Police detain settlers, Palestinians in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli police said Friday they had detained nine Jewish settlers and 11 Palestinians for throwing stones at each other in Hebron in an operation to restore calm to the flashpoint West Bank town.

Meanwhile, the army detained around 20 Palestinians on Friday after a home-made bomb was thrown at a settlers' building. The bomb did not explode and there were no casualties, witnesses said.

Police detained the settlers, at least six of whom are minors, in the past four days for allegedly throwing stones at cars driven by Palestinians near Jewish enclaves in the centre of Hebron.

They are to ask for charges to be brought, spokeswoman Linda Menulim said.

Eleven Palestinians have also been arrested for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers and they will be prosecuted soon, Ms. Menulim said.

She said the Israeli police operations were "aimed at restoring calm in Hebron."

Sanctions Committee hopes for Iraq distribution nod next week

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Sanctions Committee is confident that a new plan for humanitarian supplies to be distributed in Iraq can be approved next week.

Portuguese diplomat Ana Martins Gomes, briefing journalists after a Sanctions Committee meeting, noted that U.N. chief Kofi Annan would agree to the new six-month plan after consulting the Iraqi officials.

"This is a matter to be dealt with by the Iraqis and

the secretary general, but we are certainly confident and hopeful that it will be solved next week," she said. Portugal chairs the 15-member committee.

Iraq announced in June that it would suspend implementation of the oil-for-food deal — a temporary exemption to U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait — until a new distribution plan was done.

But Ms. Martins Gomes stressed that for the 15-

member committee, "there is no link between the resumption of the oil exports and the distribution plan."

Iraq sent a new letter to the Security Council Wednesday to accuse the committee's U.S. representative of deliberately holding up the approval of contracts for food and medicine.

The oil-for-food deal allows Iraq to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in return for much-

needed food and medicine. The first six months expired in June, and adjustments were worked out in a new distribution plan which has still to be approved.

Because of the delays, Iraqi authorities announced that they would be reducing rations in July for basic food items such as rice. According to the U.N., 850,000 tonnes of goods have been delivered to Iraq since March under the humanitarian deal.

Lebanon says money barred Iraqis from Arab games

BEIRUT (R) — President Elias Hrawi said Thursday Lebanon had crucial economic ties with Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states in mind when it barred Iraqi athletes from the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

At a meeting with Lebanese editors, he said these ties were more important than any exports to Iraq achieved as a result of good relations with Baghdad.

"The Arab League invited Iraq to the games. There was no Lebanese invitation," he said.

"Saudi Arabia and Kuwait took part in building the sports city [for the games]. There are thousands of Lebanese working in the Gulf who repatriate funds in order to export some products to Iraq," he added.

Ninety-seven Iraqi athletes who were denied visas returned home Monday after being stranded for two days at the Lebanese-Syrian border.

The row over the games which opened in Beirut Saturday appears to have derailed efforts by the two countries to resume diplomatic ties which were cut in 1994 after the murder of an Iraqi dissident in Beirut.

Over the last three months both countries have been exchanging trade teams and their officials have hinted they were willing to resume political and economic ties which once gave Lebanese exports a lucrative outlet in the Iraqi market.

Angered by Lebanese moves at the games, Iraq Monday said it has postponed a visit by a business delegation to Lebanon.

Iraqi media has been harshly attacking Lebanon for not granting visas for the Iraqi athletes and succumbing to Saudi and Kuwaiti pressures.

In Beirut, Lebanon's stand has angered businessmen seeking opportunities in Iraq.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose vast oil wealth give them wide influence in the region, have maintained a hawkish stand on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait while other Gulf Arab states have softened their position.

Both countries have contributed substantially to the \$50 million cost of rebuilding the Beirut stadium housing many of the games' events.

They have also poured millions of dollars into Lebanon's huge reconstruction drive following the 1975-90 civil war.

Turkey's Ciller loses another aide amidst charges of spying

ANKARA (AFP) — Conservative former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller lost another top advisor Friday, adding to her woes as she fights claims of spying for the U.S.

Ufuk Soylemez said he had resigned from Ms. Ciller's True Path party following disputes with the party leadership, the 20th to do so since her conservative arch-rival Mesut Yilmaz was appointed prime minister a month ago.

He was economics minister in Islamist former Premier Necmettin Erbakan's coalition government, in which True Path was the junior party.

Mr. Soylemez's resignation came two days after military prosecutors launched an investigation

into allegations made by a leftist politician that Ms. Ciller spied for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The U.S. Thursday denied the claim. A spokeswoman at the U.S. Information Service said, "any suggestion of a clandestine relation between the U.S. government and Mrs. Ciller is completely false."

If the prosecutors find convincing evidence, steps will be taken to try Ms. Ciller, who was Mr. Erbakan's deputy premier and foreign minister.

Last month, Labour Party leader Dogu Perincek claimed that he had documents proving that Ms. Ciller had worked for the CIA at different times.

Ms. Ciller and Mr. Erbakan have both accused

Mr. Yilmaz and the army of transferring deputies from their parties to the new government bloc through under-the-table and immoral ways.

Ms. Ciller is widely disliked within the military — which regards itself as the guardian of Turkey's secular state — for joining forces in parliament with Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party last year, thus making him the republic's first Islamist prime minister, analysts said.

The powerful generals and Mr. Erbakan's cabinet had been at odds over creeping Islamisation in Turkey. The escalating tensions prompted fears of a military coup before the former premier's resignation on June 18.

Israeli army outpost turned into new Jewish settlement

HEMDAT, West Bank (AFP) — The Israeli army has turned an outpost in the northern West Bank over to civilians and allowed them to create a new Jewish settlement, settlers and soldiers here said Friday.

Four settlers guarded by four soldiers now live in Hemedat, a small compound overlooking the Jordan Valley some 50 kilometres north of Jericho, one of settlers. Oren Amit, told Agence France Press (AFP), Hemedat had been an outpost for Nahal, the army's "pioneer corps," which establishes and runs settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The settler organisation Amman asked the army to turn the site, which Nahal had all but abandoned, over to civilians. The first settlers, a married couple, moved into Hemedat a month ago, Mr. Amit said.

Over a dozen caravans have also been put on the site in expectation of founding a Yeshiva Jewish religious school there. "We hope to bring in more people in the future," Mr. Amit, 21, told AFP. Hemedat was founded as an agricultural kibbutz in the 1980s. But when it failed economically the civilians left and it was taken over by Nahal.

But Nahal abandoned the

site three years ago, leaving only a minimal rotating guard of eight soldiers, one of the four Nahal soldiers at Hemedat told AFP.

Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to forge ahead with the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in defiance of international criticisms of the policy.

Under pressure from the U.S., he has implied that his government will not allow new settlements to be built in the West Bank although he has never ruled them out.



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian man in Hebron Friday. Israeli police Friday said they had detained 9 Jewish settlers and 11 Palestinians for throwing stones at each other in Hebron in an operation to restore calm to the flashpoint West Bank town. Meanwhile, the army detained around 20 Palestinians after a home-made bomb was thrown at a settlers' building. The bomb did not explode and there were no casualties, witnesses said (AFP photo)

Chirac promises French initiative at EU on Middle East peace process

BEIRUT (AFP) — France will present an initiative aimed at breaking the four-month deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace process at a European Union (EU) meeting next week, President Jacques Chirac said in an interview published Friday.

Mr. Chirac told the Saudi daily Ashraq Al Awsat that France "is pushing with all its strength to unblock the peace-process," frozen since Israel began work on a new settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in mid-

March. "We are going to present the broad lines of this initiative," Mr. Chirac told the London-based newspaper during a visit to Brussels Thursday. He said the French proposal had European support.

EU foreign ministers are to meet in Brussels Tuesday and Wednesday. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will be in the French capital to meet the ministers.

Members of Mr. Chirac's

delegation told Ashraq Al Awsat that the EU was trying to organise a direct meeting between Mr. Levy and Mr. Arafat.

The Palestinian delegate to Belgium, Shawki Arnaoui, said Thursday that the meeting — which would be the first between Mr. Levy and Mr. Arafat since a Euro-Mediterranean conference in Malta in April — was very likely.

Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority walked out of peace talks with Israel in protest at the

groundbreaking March 18 of a new settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as a future capital.

The resulting stalemate triggered violent protests in the West Bank, where 300 people have been injured in the town of Hebron alone.

The Palestinians are demanding a halt to settlement building before they will return to the negotiating table, a condition which Israel rejects.



ROYAL WEDDING: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath stand with the newly-wed couple for a commemorative photo, Thursday, after the wedding ceremony of their daughter, Princess Rahma, to Mr. Alaa' Bataineh (See story on page 3) (Photo by Boghos)



14:30	Riyadh (SY)
15:50	Vienna (OS)
17:45	Dubai (EK)
17:50	Doha (QR)
19:25	Antalia (TK)
21:10	Jakarta (GA)
23:15	Cairo (MS)
23:55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25	Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00	Rome (AZ)
04:00	Athens (OA)

retro) — Beginning July 1, Jordan Telecommunications (JTC) will disconnect telephone bills up to the date of according to the JTC Director. Those persons in the Balqa area who have not heretofore paid their telephone bills will be disconnected. The JTC Director has affirmed that the JTC will not disconnect telephone lines, inter-

HRH Princess Rahma Al Hassan and Alaa Aref Bataineh were Thursday married during a ceremony held at the home of their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath. The wedding ceremony was attended by their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Talal, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, other members of the Royal Family, and foreign royalty and dignitaries. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khawaneh, Alaa Bataineh is the son of former Minister of Health Dr. Aref Bataineh and Haifa Bataineh. The King congratulated the newlyweds and wished them a happy and prosperous life (photo by Boghos)



Jordan, Kuwait maintain contact on road to reconciliation

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said contacts are continuing with Kuwait on restoring ties, which have been frozen since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, in an interview published Thursday.

Dr. Majali told the Kuwaiti daily, Al Rai Al Amm, that "we hope our relations with Kuwait will return to normal, and from our side we are completely open" to renewing full ties.

He spoke of "positive developments," including the restoration of air links between Amman and Kuwait city earlier in July by the national carriers and signs of Kuwaiti investment in Jordan.

"The indications are good and contacts are continuing," he said.

Kuwait froze relations with Jordan, Sudan, Yemen and the Palestinian leadership after accusing them of siding with Iraq following its invasion of the emirate in August 1990.

The emirate has a charge d'affaires in the three Arab states, but their embassies here are closed.

Kuwait's acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said in June that normalisation with certain Arab countries "which adopted a pro-Iraqi stance will take place in the near future."

Despite signs of improvement, officials have said the process of restoring full relations is likely to be gradual.

Ministry to create new licences committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply is to create a committee to oversee the procedural process for new industrial project licences and prevent any delays pertaining thereto, according to Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki Friday.

Addressing a meeting, attended by representatives of various industrial sectors, held at Sahab Industrial city, the minister stated that the committee will also receive queries from investors as well as discuss any difficulties which may be facing their various projects through contacts with those authorities concerned.

He said that the government is ready to help industrial firms construct waste water treatment plants and provide them with technical expertise to ensure that local industries do not harm the environment.

The government will prioritise locally-manufactured products in its purchases for military and civil service consumer corporations, according to Dr. Mulki.

No foreign commodities will be bought for these corporations if similar Jordanian products responding to Jordanian standards and specifications are available, he added.

Presenting their requests and complaints to the minister, the industrialists requested that the government exempt input like spare parts and other components from tax, reduce tariffs on electric power and water supplied to the factories, reconsider legislation pertaining to industry, the environment, public health, sales tax and review regulations concerning exports and procedures for securing the U.N. Sanctions Committee's approval on exports to Iraq.

The industrialists also asked the government to take measures to remove barriers impeding Jordanian exports to the Palestinian self-rule areas, exempt local printing presses from sales tax and provide assistance and support for pharmaceutical and veterinary production.

'Government determined to ensure adherence to the law'

By Ghaila Alul
and Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nader Rashid Wednesday reiterated the government's determination to ensure adherence to the law, be it in regards to those political parties which are not complying with financial requirements, arms and drug smugglers infiltrating border areas, or in preparatory measures for the upcoming general elections.

Stressing the importance of activating the 1992 Political Parties Law "to prevent chaos," Mr. Rashid defended the government against accusations of opposition parties which have objected to ways in which the Ministry of Interior is currently monitoring some parties' financial resources and conducting inspections of their annual budgets.

"We are enforcing the law, and, according to Article 19 of the Political Parties Law, each party should submit its budget to the government during the first quarter of each year, and the minister has the right to examine the parties' budgets," he said.

Eleven opposition parties, grouped into the Higher Committee for Coordination among the Opposition Parties, strongly criticised the ministry's appointment of a private auditing firm to conduct inspections.

"We believe that this is a job for government officials, or somebody with an official mandate, and not just anyone," Islamists and leftists said in their letter to Mr. Rashid a few weeks back.

"The government has appointed a neutral auditor, as is customary procedure," responded Mr. Rashid, speaking to journalists in an informal meeting in the Jordan Times and Al Rai newspaper offices.

In reply to a question as to whether a widespread impression that the government has begun to crack down on political parties and professional associations

is justified, Mr. Rashid rejoined: "Whoever implements the law does not crack down on anybody."

He stressed that the government has not yet taken any action against political parties found in violation of the above mentioned article.

"A particular political party submitted its budget two months late, but we did not take any measure," he said, adding that "one person opened a political party in his own house and he does not even own a telephone."

"We have only two or three strong parties in Jordan which are following the law and the constitution," the minister stated, possibly referring to the National Constitutional Party (NCP) — including mainly business principals and former ministers — and the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Jordan's main opposition party.

"We have not taken any action against political parties violating the law, so far, but the time will come for us to publish the information we are gathering, and when we do, the people are going to see wonders," the minister told journalists.

Mr. Rashid also criticised professional associations for "playing the role of political parties."

"[There are no] professional associations doing their job as labour unions, [while there are] some political parties not playing their political role," the minister said, averting, however, "we respect political parties and do not plan any move against professional associations."

Commenting on both the Brotherhood's recent decision to boycott this autumn's elections and the current debate within other opposition groups as to whether to follow the Brotherhood's decision, Mr. Rashid reiterated that the elections for Jordan's 13th Parliament will be held in their constitutional time, and that the exact date will be announced by His Majesty King Hussein in a Royal Decree, as stipulated by the Constitution.

"The minority cannot impose its

[will] on the majority," he said. "We are ready for dialogue with any party, but the Muslim Brotherhood's conditions are illogical."

The Brotherhood's overall leader, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, listed the one-person, one-vote system introduced in 1993 by a temporary law, the 1994 peace treaty with Israel and mid-May amendments to the Press and Publications Law, strongly criticised by international press freedom groups, as the main reasons behind the decision to boycott this year's elections.

Mr. Rashid dismissed the Brotherhood's call on the government to "freeze" all temporary laws until a new Parliament is elected as "contradictory."

"They are contradicting themselves: They say temporary laws are unconstitutional and then they want the government to introduce new temporary laws to cancel [current] temporary laws," he said.

"Dialogue is there, but let them ask for it," the minister commented regarding the possibility of a compromise between the government and opposition.

Referring to clashes in late May between police and persons protesting against amendments to the Press and Publications Law, the minister described the protesters as "not having anything to do with journalism."

Mr. Rashid emphasised the government's commitment to halt trafficking in illegal substances and arms, and affirmed "in the past few months, more smugglers than ever have been caught."

Due to its geographic location, the Kingdom has become "a corridor for smugglers reaching to the Gulf countries," the minister explained. "We have doubled our efforts in fighting drug traffickers... and have [confiscated] 1.3 million pills."

Ministry announces greening project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture will this year embark on a five-year project in order to "green" areas surrounding the ancient Nabataean city of Petra in southern Jordan, Minister of Agriculture Mijbren Kheishba Friday announced.

The project will include the cultivation of seven million fruit and pine trees, he added. According to Mr. Kheishba, these trees will prevent landslides, beautify ancient sites and their surrounding areas, and prevent desert encroachment.

During a visit to Petra, in which city he inspected the environs and met with local officials, he affirmed that his ministry has prepared a plan for increasing verdancy in the area and will soon submit such to the Council of Ministers for its endorsement and implementation.

The ministry-sponsored main Arbor Day celebration, which takes place in January of every year, will be held in the Petra region, he added.

Mr. Kheishba described the project as part of the ministry's overall plan to green the country by the year 2000 and stated that the Ministry of Agriculture, working in conjunction with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, will secure permanent water sources from those dams which collect rain water.

It will also utilise artesian wells to irrigate trees and guarantee sustainable verdancy of these mostly government-owned lands.

Regarding lands owned by local citizens, the minister stated that the ministry supply fruit, pine and olive trees and help plant them in exchange for a pledge that these persons will care for the trees in the future.

The minister said that the project will be spread over the coming five years and implemented with help from the ministries of education, public works and housing and the Jordan Armed Forces.

He appealed to various organisations help the Ministry of Agriculture in implementing this vital project.

Crown Prince, Princess deliver milk donation

MAFRAQ (Petra) — On the occasion of the 50th birthday of their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, His Royal Highness the Markgraf Von Baden and Her Imperial Highness the Markgräfin Von Baden have proffered a milk powder donation to indigent children in the eastern badia regions of the Mafrag governorate.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Thursday delivered the milk on behalf of the Baden family to Al Noor Charity, a non-profit charity established in Mafrag in 1965, to provide services and assistance to poor families in the eastern badia.

The charity will distribute the milk to more than 100 indigent families.

Islamists stage mass marriage

AMMAN (AFP) — An Islamic welfare organisation organised Jordan's biggest mass wedding on Thursday and said the cost-cutting ceremony is becoming increasingly popular here.

Seventeen couples got married in a ceremony where men and women were kept largely apart, organised by the Afaf organisation.

Afaf organised the first collective wedding here in 1995 with four couples and married off five couples in 1996.

"The experiment in mass weddings is beginning to come to fruition and people realise the need to avoid lavishing huge amounts of money on marriage ceremonies," the organisation's leader, Abdul Latif Arabiyeh, said.

He told AFP that Afaf now plans to extend its activities across the whole



Jordanian grooms and veiled brides stage the largest mass wedding in which 34 couples tied the knot in an Islamic atmosphere on July 17 in Amman. Hundreds of relatives and friends attended the open-air matrimony, organised by an Islamic charitable society to curb growing celibacy rates amongst Jordanians (AFP photo)

of Jordan. Men and women have been marrying later and later in Jordan due to the high cost of arranging a ceremony.

A university study last year showed that 60 per cent of women aged 20-25 and 40 per cent of men aged 25-30 were still single.

JTC introduces new method of future telephone disconnection

AMMAN (Petra) — Beginning July 25, the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) will disconnect telephones of those persons in the Balqa governorate who have not heretofore settled telephone bills up to the date of April 30, according to JTC Director General Mamoun Balqar.

Mr. Balqar affirmed that the JTC will follow a new method for disconnecting telephone lines, introducing a gradual and explained interruption.

Persons in the Madaba governorate who have defaulted on their payments will have their telephone lines disconnected

as of Aug. 1 while telephone lines in Zarqa will be disconnected as of Aug. 8, he stated.

According to Mr. Balqar, the measure will facilitate the work of bill reception centres in the various governorates as it will the settlement of telephone bills for subscribers.

The new method was introduced, he explained, subsequent to a thorough JTC study regarding the most efficient means for collecting payments.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

"Pigmy Hippos And Ghwair" by Al Simmons and Mohammad Najjar at the Friends of Archaeology Center (Tel. 846-117)

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT OF THERMAL POWER PROJECT ON A BUILD - OWN - OPERATE BASIS NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SPONSORS

The Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources (MEMR), an organisation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, intends to have its next thermal Power Project, with a 400 KV, 132-KV switchyard and support facilities (the Project), implemented on a build - own - operate (BOO) basis. MEMR intends to select a sponsor (the sponsor) through international competitive bidding based on a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document, and negotiate the agreements under which the project will be implemented, so as to commence commercial operation of the first unit on or before July 1, 2001.

To assist MEMR in the implementation of this first private power project in Jordan, K & M Engineering and Consulting Corporation, USA, has been the advisor for sponsor pre-qualification and RFP preparation.

MEMR now seeks to pre-qualify interested firms and/or joint ventures who have international experience in implementing electric energy generation projects, and invites "Qualification Statements" from them.

The pre-qualification document which contains the required "Qualification Statements form" and the evaluation criteria will be available on or about August 8, 1997, from:

1- K&M Engineering and Consulting Corporation

2001 L Street, N.W., Suite 500

Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

Attn: Mr. Guy Knowle, Manager of Procurement Services

Tel: (202) 728-0390

Fax: (202) 872-9174

E-mail: gknowle@mail.kmec.com

2- Eng. Ahmad Bashir

Secretary General

Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources (MEMR)

P.O. Box 140027

Jabal Amman-7th Circle

Amman-Jordan

Tel: 962-6-828971

Fax: 962-6-821398

Potential Sponsors "Qualification Statements" shall be submitted on or before 14 hours Amman time on September 8, 1997, to MEMR at the above address.

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U.S. backs 3 Third World seats on Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States, which has previously supported adding Germany and Japan as permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council, said Thursday it would also back permanent seats for three developing countries.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in Washington that, after a review, "the United States now agrees that we ought to have developing countries sit on a permanent basis on the U.N. Security Council as permanent members."

"We believe that the regions themselves — the African countries, the Latin American countries and the Asian countries — ought to decide how these seats will be filled."

The Security Council, the U.N. body concerned with international peace and security, now consists of five permanent members which each have a veto — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — and 10 non-permanent members who serve two-year terms.

"We have not taken a position on the veto for new permanent members including Japan and Germany, but we will oppose any resolu-

tion which infringes on prerogatives for current permanent members," Mr. Burns said.

While the U.S. stand was welcomed at the United Nations, an aide to Republican Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the proposal was "problematic" and any thought of a veto for new members was a "non-starter."

Although the administration had not supported expanding the veto, it had not ruled it out either, he said, adding that no one had consulted with Helms. The Senate eventually has to approve any change in the U.N. Charter.

The United States has previously supported permanent council seats for Japan and Germany, economic heavyweights who pay 15.65 per cent and 9.06 per cent of the U.N. budget respectively. The United States is supposed to pay 25 per cent.

Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, announced Washington's new position on three additional council seats at a meeting Thursday of a U.N. working group that has been discussing council reform for several

years. The U.S. decision still leaves open a large number of questions that have divided the working group. These include:

— The ultimate size of the council

— Whether and how many non-permanent members should be added

— Whether new permanent members should have the power of veto enjoyed by the current permanent five.

Germany and Japan insist they must also have veto rights, while a summit meeting of non-aligned countries in New Delhi earlier this year said any Third World countries that become permanent members of the council must also have a veto.

The United States and some other countries favour limiting an enlarged council to 21 members, for the sake of efficiency. But others want an increase in as many as 24 to 26, including up to half a dozen additional non-permanent members.

Mr. Richardson told the U.N. working group: "We have no flexibility above and beyond 20-21 seats on a reformed council, adding Washington would oppose higher numbers."

The United States was prepared to accept a review clause "so that what is decided this year is not set in stone for all time," Mr. Richardson added.

He endorsed the aim of General Assembly President Razali Ismail of Malaysia to obtain assembly approval of a draft framework resolution by this autumn. The United States would also study a proposal by Senegal's Ambassador Ibra. Ka for a special working group to look into the veto issue.

How permanent members from developing countries would be chosen is also unresolved. One way would be for individual countries to vie for a seat that they would occupy permanently. Another way would be for such seats to be allotted to certain regions, and then rotated among members of that region so that each would fill the seat for a certain number of years.

Any changes in the membership of the Security Council would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the 185-member General Assembly and ratified by the parliaments or other bodies of two-thirds of the U.N. membership, including all five current permanent council members.



Ousted Cambodian First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh is whisked away by Thai authorities upon arrival in Bangkok Friday for talks with South East Asian foreign ministers. Prince Ranariddh was toppled by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen earlier this month and is launching a campaign to regain his position. (Reuters photo)

Hun Sen warns of interference as international peace efforts grow

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's powerful co-premier Hun Sen Friday shrugged off increasing international efforts to solve his country's political crisis and told foreigners, including ASEAN, to stay out of the country's affairs.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the man Mr. Hun Sen ousted in a bloody July 6 takeover, arrived in Bangkok from Europe early Friday for talks with three foreign ministers from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Hun Sen, speaking to reporters in Cambodia, said that he would meet the three ASEAN envoys in Phnom Penh Saturday, but appeared weary of their diplomatic efforts.

Cambodia, he said, could survive without ASEAN. "I will sit down and listen to them," he said of the envoys, but added, "No foreigner can control Hun Sen. I will ask them to finish the problem tomorrow so they won't have to bother about Cambodia any more. Please don't interfere."

"If they don't let us join ASEAN, we won't join. If we don't join ASEAN, it won't be the death of us," he said during a visit to a pagoda about 60 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

In another move to end the Cambodian crisis, the U.S. State Department said Thursday former Congressman Stephen Solarz was being sent to Asia on a special mission to work with regional countries on Cambodia.

Mr. Solarz will leave

Friday or Saturday for a trip to Beijing, Tokyo, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Phnom Penh, where he will meet Mr. Hun Sen, spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"During high-level meetings in those capitals he will discuss with those governments how best to uphold and restore the principles of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords so that all Cambodian parties can operate freely and fair elections can take place in 1998," he said.

The United States has been pushing for Mr. Hun Sen to create a coalition with Prince Ranariddh's royalist party and recommit to democratic principles including holding another round of elections as planned next year.

Earlier this week the remnants of Prince Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party nominated Foreign Minister Ung Huot to succeed the prince as first prime minister.

The nomination was approved by Mr. Hun Sen's party but Washington has refused to recognise it, saying there was no evidence that Mr. Ung Huot's selection was a free and democratic basis.

Thai Foreign Minister Prachubab Friday denied ASEAN was interfering in Cambodia's affairs.

"We want to see peace reported in Cambodia as soon as possible. But we have no intention to interfere in the internal matters of Cambodia. We will use the Paris agreement as our guideline in dealing with

the issue," he said. ASEAN was a co-signatory of the 1991 Paris accords which ended years of conflict and laid the grounds for U.N.-sponsored elections in 1993 which Prince Ranariddh won.

ASEAN, which also includes Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam, decided last week to postpone Phnom Penh's admission in response to Prince Ranariddh's overthrow. Cambodia had been due to join ASEAN, together with Burma and Laos, at next week's annual foreign ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur.

ASEAN Secretary-General Ajit Singh said Friday that Cambodia would still attend the group's foreign ministerial meeting next week as an observer with a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Ung Huot.

"The decision...to postpone the admission of Cambodia is in fact telling Cambodia that you cannot join ASEAN with a house divided," Mr. Singh said.

He expressed confidence, however, that Cambodia would ultimately join the regional grouping.

Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia days before Mr. Hun Sen's forces moved against his royalist troops. He has vowed to lead a resistance.

Mr. Hun Sen has said Prince Ranariddh would face charges if he ever returned to Cambodia, alleging the prince was breaking the law by dealing with the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement.

Clinton nominates Green Beret to head military

WASHINGTON (R) — Ending a search made more difficult by the turmoil over sex in the military, President Bill Clinton Thursday selected Army General Henry Shelton to be chairman of the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Shelton, a tough Green Beret paratrooper who led U.S. forces in Haiti, would be the third army man in a row to fill a job that usually rotates among the Army, Navy and Air Force.

In announcing that he had decided to name the 55-year-old Special Forces commander to be the top U.S. military officer, Mr. Clinton said Gen. Shelton brought "unique perspective" to the job because of his expertise in unconventional warfare.

"Over more than three decades of service to our nation, he (Gen. Shelton) has distinguished himself as a decorated soldier, an innovative thinker, a superb commander. From Vietnam to Desert Storm, he has proven his skill and courage in combat," Mr. Clinton said at a White House Rose Garden ceremony.

Defence Secretary William Cohen and other members of the Joint Chiefs also attended the brief announcement ceremony, which was held before the president left on a trip to Pennsylvania, Illinois and Arkansas.

Mr. Clinton said that Gen. Shelton's extensive experience in joint military operations and building coalitions with other nations "give him invaluable tools to serve as chairman in our more interdependent world."

"As the first commander of the U.S.-led multinational force in Haiti, his qualities personified the best of America — strong and skilful, with great sensitivity, and no nonsense," he said.

Gen. Shelton, a native of Tarboro, North Carolina, who goes by the nickname "Hugh," is not a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Instead, he holds a degree in textile engineering from North Carolina State University and a master's degree from Auburn University in Alabama.

"The warfighting experience, diplomatic skill, global perspective and the human touch were important factors in my recommendation of General Shelton to the president," Mr. Cohen told reporters at the Pentagon Thursday.

"Special Operations individuals and units deploy all over the world," Mr. Cohen said. "They are a key element in our ability to work smoothly with allies and coalition partners."

Gen. Shelton's selection to succeed Army General John Shalikashvili when his term as chairman expires at the end of September came five weeks after Air Force General Joseph Ralston, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs, withdrew from the running.

Gen. Ralston — Mr. Cohen's first choice for the post — asked that he not be considered after an adulterous affair in his back-ground came to light.

The disclosure followed the forced resignation of Air Force Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, the first woman B-52 pilot, who otherwise would have faced court-martial on charges arising from her love affair with a married man.

After thanking Gen. Shalikashvili for his long service to the nation, Mr. Clinton said the new chairman-designate would guide the armed forces in a mission environment that includes peacekeeping duties, dealing with terrorism and curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Low-caste leader voted Indian president

NEW DELHI (R) — K. Chidambaram Narayanan has become the first member of a low Hindu caste to be elected president of India.

Mr. Narayanan, 76, previously vice-president, was backed by Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's United Front coalition, the Congress Party and the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was chosen by an electoral college of 4,848 legislators of the federal parliament and state assemblies who voted in a secret ballot under a system of proportional representation.

"I feel grateful to the Indian people for the support they have given me through the elected members," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted him as saying. "I feel humble and satisfied."

The former diplomat, who will be the 10th president of the world's largest democ-

racy, was born into a poor family in southern India but went on to study at the London School of Economics.

He won 4,231 votes to 240 for his rival, former Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan, an Election Commission spokesman said. Mr. Seshan won fame as poll chief from 1991 to 1996 for spearheading a campaign to clean up electoral politics.

Mr. Narayanan's victory was a foregone conclusion after he secured the support of the country's three major political groups — the ruling coalition, its powerful ally and the main opposition party — last month.

Under the Indian parliamentary system, the president is the titular head of state with few real powers compared to the prime minister, who is the head of government.

But the post has assumed greater importance with the emergence of coalition poli-

tics in which the head of state can play a key role in the formation of governments.

Mr. Narayanan is due to be sworn in for a five-year term on July 25, three weeks before the 50th anniversary on Aug. 15 of India's independence from Britain.

PTI said people in his home village of Uzhavoor in the southern state of Kerala celebrated by parading his portrait on an elephant and distributing sweets to the public.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma, whose term expires on July 25, did not seek re-election although he would have been eligible.

Over the past 15 months, Mr. Sharma has appointed three prime ministers, all heading minority governments. The president also has the final say appointing state governors and in any proceedings to impeach Supreme Court judges.

Burma junta holds talks with NLD on eve of ASEAN entry

BANGKOK (AFP) — Surprise talks between Burma's Democrat opposition and the ruling junta in the run-up to Rangoon's entry into ASEAN represent a first step towards political dialogue, analysts said Friday.

The two sides remain poles apart, but the meeting was a significant gesture by the military government which could help breach the impasse of the past two years, they said.

The timing of the talks heralded Burma's entry into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) next week over the objections of some Western countries critical of the junta's record on human and political rights.

Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, the junta's powerful military intelligence chief, Thursday held a one-hour and 45-minute formal meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi was released from six years of house arrest in July 1995. They came despite an apparent toughening in the official line against the NLD in recent weeks.

"The fact that ASEAN has publicly asked the SLORC to move towards holding a dialogue suggests it had something to do with the timing of the meeting," said one Rangoon-based foreign analyst, referring to the military junta.

"Maybe they (the SLORC) felt it would be a positive gesture in the run-up to the ASEAN ministerial meeting, so they could enter (ASEAN) with flying colours," the analyst said. Burma is to be welcomed into the group, along with Laos, on the eve of the annual ASEAN ministerial meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur on July 24-25.

ASEAN has decided to admit Burma despite Western pressure to isolate the military regime, which has refused to recognise the NLD's landslide victory in the last general elections held in Burma in 1990.

World labour movement slams Hong Kong over law change

HONG KONG (R) — The international labour movement accused the China-backed Hong Kong government Friday of trampling workers' rights by rolling back laws protecting trade unions.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) called Wednesday's freezing of labour rights laws by Hong Kong's legislature a slap in the face and a breach of China's promises on labour standards.

Defending the move, legislature President Rita Fan said the government needed time to study the labour laws, which had been passed in haste before the handover by an elected legislature replaced by the current China-appointed body.

"The government did not have time to examine carefully whether these laws could be implemented and the difficulty in implementing them. Therefore it was necessary for the government to ask us to suspend the laws," she said.

Ms. Fan said she did not fear a legal challenge to the assembly and was confident it would win the argument over whether it had a legal right to pass the suspension bill.

The ICFTU said China's pledge to allow the former British colony to keep its capitalist system was also in doubt.

China took Hong Kong back from Britain on July 1, ending 156 years of colonial rule, with a pledge of no change for 50 years to the capitalist system of this territory of 6.4 million people.

Hong Kong's new parliament passed a government bill Wednesday suspending three labour laws and a human rights provision. They are unlikely to be reinstated.

The Brussels-based ICFTU called the move "a slap in the face for Hong Kong workers, who were the source of Hong Kong's economic miracle" as the world's eighth-largest trading economy.

"This makes a mockery of official assurances given by China to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that basic labour standards, in particular ILO conventions 87 and 98, would remain valid in Hong Kong after the handover," it said.

The covenants referred to in the ICFTU's statement protect such trade union rights as collective bargaining, which enable unions to negotiate with employers on wages and benefits.

The government shot back with a denial that it was breaching international labour covenants.

"There is no question of Hong Kong breaching international labour conventions applicable to Hong Kong," a spokesman said. "Our

proposal is to suspend, not repeal, the laws until October 31, to enable the administration to assess their full impact."

Trade unions from more than 30 countries, the ICFTU said, have sent protest letters to Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa, who has said he does not want the labour laws on the statute book because they will hurt Hong Kong's competitiveness.

The Tung government and legislature are entangled in growing legal problems with constitutional polemics raging over a plan to toughen sedition laws, a bill to deport child immigrants and an election law that hampers pro-democracy forces.

Hong Kong trade union leader Lee Cheuk-yan, a former legislator ousted when the territory changed hands, said the freezing of the labour laws was likely to be challenged in court.

He said Hong Kong's new constitution adhered to conventions of the Geneva-based ILO, including collective bargaining.

"As a signatory to the convention, Hong Kong is liable for taking away such rights when they are in force," Mr. Lee said.

Trade union leaders said collective bargaining was a good safety valve that could help avert serious labour conflicts.

Manila, Muslim rebels sign truce

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine government and the country's last remaining Muslim insurgency Friday signed a ceasefire aimed at paving the way for formal peace talks, President Fidel Ramos and rebel leaders said.

The agreement, which will come into effect on July 21, was signed in the southern Philippine city of Cagayan De Oro by government negotiator Fortunato Abat and Ghazali Jaafar, vice-chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He described the agreement as a "breakthrough" that would hopefully lead to the signing of a formal peace agreement between the two sides.

Copies of the agreement said that ceasefire negotiations would meet on July 30 and over the next two months to finalise the details of the cessation of hostilities.

Both sides were also committed to proceed with formal peace talks at a still un-

determined place and time.

However, hours before the agreement was signed, MILF guerrillas exchanged mortar fire with an army outpost late Thursday and raided a Christian village in the latest outbreak of violence in the southern town of Pikit before dawn Friday, officials said.

The renewed clashes came despite a unilateral ceasefire called by the military in the area earlier this week.

Before dawn Friday, about 50 heavily-armed MILF guerrillas raided the village of Nalapan, also in Pikit, sending townsfolk fleeing.



Residents carry a body from the wreckage of Sempati Air Fokker F-27 Aircraft that crashed near Bandung in West Java trying to make an emergency landing after losing power soon after take-off (Reuter photo)

Death toll rises to 27 in Indonesian plane crash

BANDUNG (R) — The death toll in an aircraft crash near the Indonesian city of Bandung rose to 27 overnight as a seriously injured passenger died in hospital, officials said Friday.

The Fokker F-27 crashed shortly after taking off from Bandung, about 120 kilometres southeast of the capital Jakarta, the flight's destination.

"The most recent report this morning is that 27 have died and 26 were injured. There were 50 people on the plane and three residents at the

location who were injured," Air Force Sergeant Budiarjo of the Bandung Search and Rescue Office, said.

"The cause of the accident is still under investigation but according to eyewitness it appeared one engine had stopped," Sgt. Budiarjo told Reuters.

Transport Minister Haryanto Dhanutirto was quoted Friday by the official Antara News Agency as saying after visiting the crash site that the pilot had signalled he wanted to "return to base" because an engine had stopped.

He said it appeared he had then attempted to make an emergency landing at an air force base about one kilometre from the crash site.

Hospital authorities at the Immanuel Hospital in Bandung said a Singaporean identified as Johnny Koh Eng, previously reported by Antara as dead, had in fact been brought in unconscious and had been transferred to another hospital for treatment.

Malaysian businessman Jacky Pak told Reuters from his hospital bed that he had seen the left engine catch fire

on the chartered Fokker F-27 operated by Sempati Air minutes before the crash.

"I remember passengers crying, praying and screaming before the aircraft crashed. After that I just remember waking up in the ambulance on the way to hospital," Mr. Pak said.

It is not known if there were any other foreigners on board. Many of the survivors in hospital suffered burns as the aircraft, owned by local charter operator PT Trigana Air Service, exploded soon after impact.

North Korea warns Seoul against 'military provocation'

TOKYO (R) — North Korea warned the rival South Friday against repeated military provocation near the border, saying it was ready to respond with a "powerful counter-attack."

The North Korean government newspaper Minju Joson accused South Korea of launching an "open armed attack" Wednesday on North Korean soldiers and a "deliberate and premeditated military provocation."

"It is our unswerving position and will to answer the sword of the enemy with sword, a total war with a total war," the North Korean official daily said in a commentary.

The commentary was carried by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), which is monitored in Tokyo. South Korea and the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) have protested to the North over the fierce exchange of fire Wednesday at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), following the intrusion of North Korean soldiers into the South. The DMZ bisects the Korean Peninsula.

"The incident took place when the South Korean puppets were escalating anti-North confrontation and new war preparations," the North Korean newspaper said.

"If the (South Korean President) Kim Young-Sam regime starts a war in defiance of our repeated warnings, our people and army will annihilate the enemy with a powerful counter-attack," it added.

South Korea said Northern forces fired artillery rounds and aimed rifle and machine gun fire at Southern guard posts as part of a provocation that began when 14 North Korean soldiers crossed the border line.

North Korea said several of its soldiers were wounded in what was one of the most serious clashes in many years along the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone.

The shooting occurred only three weeks before the two Koreas, the United States and China were due to hold talks to try to pave the way for negotiations aimed at thrashing out a peace treaty to replace a truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Senior officials from the four nations are due to meet in New York on Aug. 5 to set an agenda and other procedural details for the peace talks.

The United States accused North Korea of the border clash but said it would not derail food aid or efforts to bring

North Korea into peace talks.

Meanwhile, Colin Powell, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday North Korean attempts at reform will eventually cause its Communist system to collapse.

"North Korea is working from a position of weakness," said Gen. Powell, on a four-day visit to South Korea. "At the end of the day it will fail as a state. Whether it will be abrupt or over a long time remains to be seen."

"North Korea has experimented with the free-trade zone, but it will eventually serve as a poison pill," Gen. Powell said during a seminar about community leadership in Seoul.

He was referring to the Rajin-Sonbong area, which has been designated a free economic zone in a bid to lure foreign investment.

Gen. Powell said North Korea's limited steps to open up the country would gradually loosen controls, leading to the collapse of its Stalinist system.

Gen. Powell also said that he did not see any major impact from Wednesday's border clash between North and South Korean soldiers that followed an intrusion by a group of Northern troops into the South.

Gen. Powell, commander of a U.S. battalion in South Korea for one year in the 1970s, said North Korea frequently staged border provocations to keep military tensions high.

North Korea watchers say military tensions are used by Pyongyang to rally domestic support behind its Stalinist leadership at a time of economic breakdown.

About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as part of the U.S. commitment to defend the country.

Gen. Powell accused Pyongyang of letting its citizens starve so it could maintain one of the world's largest armies.

"Pictures of starving children are heart-breaking," said Gen. Powell. "I don't understand a government that no longer answers to the needs of its people."

North Korea has been suffering from severe food shortages, aggravated by devastating floods in 1995 and 1996.

Gen. Powell said the West should continue to engage North Korea to maintain peace on the peninsula.

Kinshasa: Ex-Mobutu troops in Brazzaville

KINSHASA (R) — Laurent Kabila's government has accused both sides fighting across the river in the Congo Republic's capital Brazzaville of hiring mercenaries from the defeated army of ousted Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

It threatened "military measures" if Mr. Kabila's Democratic Republic of the Congo becomes the target of fresh provocations or shots landing in the capital Kinshasa.

Deputy Interior Minister Faustin Munene told journalists that the ex-government troops had fired shells from across the Congo River into Kinshasa since fighting broke out on June 5 in Brazzaville between the army and ethnic or political militias.

Mr. Kabila's government has threatened to retaliate before.

Mr. Munene said President Pascal Lissouba's government was against Mr. Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire throughout its campaign to oust Mr. Mobutu.

"Both sides are using mercenaries from the Mobutu DSP (Special Presidential Division). This conflict is fishy. Both Lissouba and the other (Mr. Lissouba's rival, former military leader Denis Sassou Nguesso) are using Zairean forces as mercenaries. That's our concern," Mr. Munene said.

"If they keep up with acts of provocation, we will react in self-defence. We are in a state-of-law. If they provoke again, so much the worse for them," he said.

He said plots were under way in Brazzaville against Mr. Kabila's government. He declined to elaborate on who was involved.

Mr. Munene suggested that shooting in Brazzaville Wednesday night had triggered a "wind of panic" in neighbouring Kinshasa.

Soldiers of the alliance forces fired several shots into the air in different districts of Kinshasa following a resumption of shooting in Brazzaville Wednesday night.

"I went out in the street myself. I was driving around in order to find out what was going on. One of my body guards was hit (by a bullet from Brazzaville)," he said.

"If this repeats itself, we will take military measures. We don't want the panic to go on," he added.

Taiwan: Provincial government freeze is not a separatist move

TAIPEI (R) — Taipei said Friday its initial decision to junk Taiwan's largely redundant provincial government aimed not to foster independence from arch rival China, but to streamline the island's democracy.

Abolishing the provincial bureaucracy, which many say exists only to bolster the ruling Nationalist Party's all-but-abandoned claim of being the legitimate ruler of "all China", would save the treasury some 60 billion Taiwanese dollars a year, officials said.

Kao Kuoing-Liang, vice chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, rejected Beijing's intimation that the move revealed what it calls Taiwan's "splitist" intentions.

"Linking the freezing of provincial government with Taiwan independence is falsely politicising a decision made purely out of efficiency," Mr. Kao told reporters. "The Finance Ministry estimates that the streamlining would save the government some 60 billion Taiwanese dollars in expenditure."

Taiwan is ruled by the Republic of China that fled into exile there after losing the mainland to Communist forces in a civil war in 1949. It has maintained a separate provincial administration distinct from the "national" government.

Taiwan's Constitutional Assembly gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a bipartisan proposal that would abolish the provincial government in two years.

National Assembly members from the ruling Nationalist and opposition Democratic Progressive Party said final ratification of a constitutional amendment was imminent.

Reacting to the assembly's vote, Communist China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang Thursday reiterated Beijing's bonum line on Taiwan's current and future status.

"No matter what changes occur in Taiwan, one fact cannot be changed: Taiwan is a part of China," Mr. Tang said.

Like Beijing, the Nationalists maintain that the island of Taiwan is a "province" of China that eventually must be reunited with the mainland.

But rapidly democratising Taiwan says union under communism is impossible with popular consent and insists the Communist People's Republic first must embrace multiparty democracy.

"We absolutely cannot accept the Chinese Communists' unrealistic viewpoint that Taiwan is a province of the People's Republic of China," Mr. Kao said Friday.

Vincent Siew, a Nationalist powerbroker who has spearheaded his party's drive for a provincial freeze, said Beijing's objection showed a "lack of understanding on Taiwan" and risked fanning separatist sentiment on the island.

"If the Chinese Communists really want peaceful unification, they should change their viewpoint, instead of going against Taiwan people's wishes," Mr. Siew, widely tapped to become premier in an upcoming cabinet reshuffle, told Reuters in an interview.

"If their attitude does not change, it will push us further apart. It will make our people lose confidence in unification."

Pro-independence parties say that's just fine, supporting plans to junk the provincial government to do away with what they call the fiction that Taiwan is not an independent state.

A poll taken in Taiwan shortly after Beijing's July 1 absorption of Hong Kong from Britain showed that independence sentiment on the island had swelled to a record high.

The United Daily News poll showed that if given only two choices — union with China or full independence — a record 43 per cent of respondents said they would opt for independence while only 34 per cent supported union.

China, which sees Taiwan as a renegade province, vows to retake the island by force if it tries to declare independence.

Liberia prepares for historic poll

MONROVIA (AFP) — Final preparations were being made Friday for the first presidential and legislative elections in this West African nation in 12 years, aimed at closing the book on seven years of civil war.

With very limited resources and hampered by the destruction caused by the war, the Independent Electoral Commission (IECOM) has been scrambling to prepare Saturday's poll in which 700,000 Liberians are eligible to vote.

"It is now a matter of hours before we reach the point that just a year ago, no one in his wildest imagination would have thought we would reach," IECOM Chairman Henry Andrews, said late Thursday.

Mr. Andrews admitted that even two days before voting, final figures were not yet available on those voting. He said he estimated the total number of registered voters to be around 700,000 and the number of polling sites at about 1,900.

Unlike refugees from the 1992-95 Bosnian conflict, who voted in elections there in 1996, the hundreds of thousands of Liberians who fled this country's bitter war and are living as refugees will not be able to take part in the vote.

Some polling sites are so remote voting material has to be transported by canoe, according to Mr. Andrews. "Measures are being put into place that will reduce to a very low minimum any attempt to cheat," he said.

Major-General Victor Malu, the commander of the West African peace-keeping force deployed here warned earlier this week against attempts to upset voting. "I wish to warn anybody planning to disrupt the election to forget it," he said.

"I have no doubt the election will be free and fair... I do not foresee any security problem," he told AFP Thursday. ECOMOG troops will be present at all polling sites across the country.

Over 70 reported killed in Burundi

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army has said that Hutu rebels killed more than 50 civilians including 36 children in the southern province of Makamba.

In another development, witnesses said the army and Hutu rebels killed 20 people in a suburb 15 kilometres south of the capital Bujumbura.

An army statement said Hutu rebels killed 51 people — 36 children, 12 women and three men — at Bukeye Zone, Nyanza Lac in Makamba province Monday night. No independent confirmation was available.

The statement said the bodies were found in a mass grave and 48 houses were

also burned in the area.

Scores of people have been killed in Burundi's southern provinces since April in sporadic clashes between the army and the armed wing of the main Hutu rebel group, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy.

Refugees fleeing the south are arriving in Tanzania at the rate of 200 a day, the U.N. refugee agency said.

Eyewitness reports said Hutu rebels and the army killed 20 civilians in a series of attacks around Kabezi, south of the capital, last weekend.

"During the night of 12 or 13 July, Hutu rebels attacked the centre of Kabezi

and they killed a woman and her three children. Further off they slit the throats of a couple." Appoline Ntuburumusi, the Kabezi Zone chief, told independent production Studio Jjambo.

Other witnesses reported seeing a total of 20 bodies in nearby locations and said the army accused the mainly-Hutu civilian population of siding with Hutu fighters.

More than 150,000 people — mainly civilians — have been killed in Burundi since October 1993 when the country's first Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye was murdered by Tutsi troops in an attempted coup.

Miami police probe new murder; Versace cremated

MIAMI (R) — Police with sniffer dogs scoured a wood in a Miami suburb Thursday after a homosexual doctor was found murdered in his bed, prompting frantic speculation the killer of fashion designer Gianni Versace had struck again.

Police said they were trying to find out if the two murders were linked but had established no connection.

Andrew Cunanan, the alleged spree killer and homosexual prostitute suspected of gunning down Versace outside his Miami Beach mansion Tuesday, remained at large, armed and dangerous, they said.

"We have been receiving tips he is in south Florida. All are being investigated," Paige Patterson of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement told a news conference. "There have been some real positive tips but obviously he has not been arrested yet."

The discovery of the body of a rich, 44-year-old doctor at his home in Miami Springs Thursday morning sent police and FBI agents rushing to the scene. A man fitting Mr. Cunanan's description was seen running from the house, police said.

The dead doctor, named by one TV station as Silvio Alfonso, had been shot. Local television stations quoted neighbours as saying he was homosexual.

Several hours later Ms. Fonticella told Reuters: "There's no connection as far as we know at this point. Lots of men in Miami answer that description."

Police with sniffer dogs searched for clues in a nearby wood alongside a railroad track. Police helicopters hovered overhead and officers armed with shotguns stood by.

Mr. Cunanan is the only suspect of the murder of Versace, 50, a leading light of the international fashion world who dressed the world's rich and beautiful people.

Versace's clients included Britain's Princess Diana, pop star Elton John and supermodel Naomi Campbell. His death plunged his peers, friends and admirers worldwide into mourning.

FBI agents have been hunting Mr. Cunanan across the United States in connection with the murder of four other men, including his homosexual lover. Police found a red pick-up he allegedly stole from his last victim in New Jersey in a Miami Beach garage.

Mr. Cunanan, 27, has been described as a gregarious, intelligent and charming man who was well-known in gay circles in

California. His mother has described him as a "high-class prostitute" and friends say he made a living off rich, usually elderly, gay patrons.

His alleged killing spree began in Minneapolis in April.

Police said they did not know if Versace, also a homosexual, had any relationship with Mr. Cunanan, although Vanity Fair writer Maureen Orth said the two men had met at least once in San Francisco.

Police have distributed posters of him throughout South Florida and warned the gay community in particular to be alert. Police and FBI agents are scouring the city, questioning people on the street, in gay bars, hotels, restaurants and nightclubs. Miami gays said they feared he was still in their midst.

FBI spokeswoman Ann Figueiras said: "The calls that have been coming in have been wonderful. They have provided some positive leads." But she added: "The last credible sighting (of Mr. Cunanan) was at Versace's murder."

As the manhunt for Mr. Cunanan ground on, Versace's relatives prepared to take his ashes home to Italy. A funeral home source told Reuters that Versace "has been cremated and his ashes have been released to the family."

Poland mourns, prepares for possible new floods

WARSAW (R) — Heavy rain threatened a new wave of catastrophic flooding Friday as Poland mourned 48 people killed and a thousand communities devastated in the past two weeks of storms.

Flood Crisis Committee spokesman Krzysztof Pomes said it was now raining very heavily along a swathe of western Poland from the coast to mountains in the south.

Although the rains were not as heavy as in the past, soaked ground and swollen rivers could not absorb water.

"The rains are dangerous even though we estimate they will be only one third of the great downpours which hit us over a dozen days ago," said Krzysztof Szamalek, a deputy environment minister on the crisis committee told public radio.

Much depended on whether most rain fell in the west, where it would at least be troublesome, or over the south where long, heavy falls could be disastrous.

Parliament, sitting deep into the night, passed more than 20 bills allowing the government to increase borrowing and rush both funds and aid to smitten areas.

In the early hours, President Aleksander Kwasniewski told reporters he had signed them into law.

It also hastily amended the Communist-era State of Emergency Law, axing its most undemocratic provisions, so it could be applied in case of a new round of the calamity.

Despite supportive words from the Finance Ministry and Central Bank the zloty currency extended its Thursday fall by half a percent at Friday's opening amid fears about the disaster's impact on Poland's finances.

Flags were at half mast, churches held services, public broadcasters played serious music to mark a day of mourning.

President Kwasniewski supported the prime minister in opposing opposition calls to declare a state of emergency now in hard-hit regions, arguing that this would delay Sept. 21 parliamentary elections and was unnecessary.

"But if it turns out that tomorrow or the next day we are dealing with a serious threat to very many provinces of Poland, we will have no alternative, we will have to take the decision," Mr. Kwasniewski said.

In the neighbouring Czech Republic, where at least 46 people have died, the country was plunged into similar foreboding after forecasters predicted heavy rain heading for the flood-hit east Bohemia and Moravia regions.

In China, Cambodia, over one million must move for dams on Yangtze, Mekong

BEIJING (AP) — The story-tellers who spun China's ancient legends loved to set the exploits of heroes and goddesses amidst the rapids and cliffs of the Three Gorges. Today, a real-life epic is unfolding in the gorges as China prepares to move 1.3 million people for a giant dam.

So far only about 20,000 people have been moved. The rest must leave before a 600-kilometer-long reservoir backs up behind the dam in central China, which is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Dams around the world have forced people to move. But no other project approaches the scale of the relocation that will be needed for the Three Gorges dam — the world's largest hydroelectric project in its most populous country.

People have lived and traveled along the Yangtze River for more than 3,000 years. In the early part of this century, the river flooded through the gorges in swift currents. Laborers trudging toward the shore were harassed by boats they struggled to tug through the dangerous rapids.

The Communist government had the perilous rocks blasted away.

Tour boats now slide through the gorges, guides encouraging tourists to spot the settings of ancient legends.

In the small towns where the boats make stops for temple tours and souvenir shopping, residents have high expectations for a better life when they move.

What China anxiously wants to avoid is upheaval and disappointment. The pressure is on to provide adequate compensation, decent new houses and a chance for higher incomes.

Even in the very early stages of relocation, there have been scattered reports of problems: embezzled relocation money — a housing development abandoned because it was built on a slippery slope — a rally protesting inadequate compensation.

Chinese leaders refuse to allow open debate about the dam. They say the project is accepted by the majority of the affected population.

But outside China, environmental and human rights groups argue the dam will be destructive, possibly dangerous, and a violation of the rights of those who must be relocated. They urged the U.S. Export-Import Bank not to support it.

Last May, the bank said it would not deal with American companies involved in the dam unless China provided more information.

China's state-run news media put a positive spin on all reports about the project. Officials say relocation will bring not only compensation but new jobs, farmland and factories.

Chinese officials say the cost of the dam is expected to reach 203 billion yuan (\$24.5 billion). About 40 per cent of the cost is for relocation.

Each province and major city in China has been assigned a county in the reservoir area to help by investing in redevelopment or absorbing migrants.

State-run news media say about 15,000 hectares of new land have been put under cultivation, replacing about half the 30,000 hectares that will be lost. But what is lost is the most fertile land near the river.

About 1,600 factories will be inundated. So far, 300 have been rebuilt or are under construction. China also must replace nearly 700 new schools, two cities and more than 100 towns.

In Sambor, Cambodia, having survived the Khmer Rouge terror, deadly diseases and even tiger attacks, stoic peasants in this remote corner of Cambodia now must ponder irrevocable change: the Mekong may be dammed and their fields, homes and temples flooded by the "mother of waters."

"The land is good here, and we are too old to move," says 68-year-old Say Nhek, quietly looking across the mighty river. "I want electricity for my house, but if it means flooding, it would be so difficult to decide."

The probable relocation sites for Say Nhek and his family of 11 are rocky and malarial. There are no fat catfish or other sources of vital protein the Mekong now yields.

"Maybe the dam would be

good for Cambodia," suggests Yun Kim, the local headman. "I have read countries with hydroelectric power are progressive. But I see problems. Many people just want to live with their land and their culture."

These villagers are among millions whose lives will be dramatically altered as governments, international agencies and private entrepreneurs move to harness the last of the world's great untamed rivers. Most are poor; but the Mekong sustains them.

Here, the proposed Sambor dam would flood more than 800 square kilometers, displacing 60,000 people and endangering habitat where irrawaddy dolphin swim and tigers still roam.

The \$4 billion dam would generate revenue for an impoverished Cambodia through sale of electricity to power-hungry neighbors Thailand and Vietnam.

Sambor is only one of numerous projects, proceeding or projected, along the 4,200-kilometer length of the Mekong, which originates in the snowy heights of Tibet and courses through four southeast Asian countries before reaching the south China Sea.

A dozen mainstream dams, along with some 200 on the Mekong's tributaries are being considered by multilateral agencies, while China is quietly planning at least a dozen on its own extent of the river.

An area larger than France and home to more than 50 million people, the Mekong basin is also to have all-weather roads and railways, modern water transport, tourist resorts and riverside industries.

Although funding lags, some 100 "priority projects" costing \$40 billion have been identified by such lead agencies as the U.N.-backed Mekong River Commission and the Asian Development Bank. Virtually all funding will come from sources outside the Mekong nations.

Today, the world's 12th longest river is virgin by comparison to most. It was bridged only in 1994, with the opening of a span between Thailand and Laos. Only one dam, China's Manwan, has gone up to date.

A timeless quality still prevails along many stretches. At Sambor, the "mother of waters," as it is called, becomes a riverine forest of islands and half submerged trees bending with the current. Monkeys and lizards

boak on its banks. Many riverside dwellers have never encountered foreigners.

This remoteness, and decades of war in Indochina, kept the Mekong out of reach of developers who now herald the basin as "southeast Asia's greatest untapped resource" and "Asia's last frontier."

Conservationists urge that mistakes made on other rivers not be repeated. Once pristine rivers like Russia's Volga are awash with filth. The much-diverted waters of the Colorado in the American west reach the sea only in years of high flood. Millions of people in China and India suffer after being uprooted to make way for reservoirs.

The Mekong countries themselves are concerned about possible "water wars" as each siphons off more water and leaves less for those downstream. Similar conflicts are already brewing along Africa's Nile and the Tigris and Euphrates in the Middle East.

"There is a chance the dam builders will be kept at bay and the Mekong allowed to function naturally. But it's not looking very good," says Patrick McCully of the U.S.-based International Rivers Network.

"The Mekong is a dream come true for the world's dam builders," in a telephone interview, McCully says his hopes rest on the worldwide dearth of private financing for big dams and greater monitoring by environmental watchdog groups that "doesn't allow dam builders to get away with the things they did in the past."

Whatever development path is followed, it is clear the Mekong's days as a free-running waterway are almost over. "They've got no choice but to go hydro," argues David Mayo, an adviser to the government in Laos, where most of the major dams are planned.

"It's already the number three income earner — after unsustainable logging and narcotics smuggling — the economic logic is powerful. Cambodia and Laos are among the poorest nations on earth and have yet to tap hydroelectric power. Thailand, where energy demand grows by 10 percent each year, and future economic dynamo Vietnam, are eager to buy what can come on stream."

"Hydro-power is our national resource. It's like oil or gold," says Khy Tainglim, vice chairman of Cambodia's National Mekong Committee.

He also says it will provide cheap electricity for poor Cambodians, and he argues the rivers have to be controlled to mitigate frequent floods and droughts.

A leading Cambodian fisheries expert, Touch Sieng Thana, disagrees. Annual flooding sustains wetlands that are irreplaceable breeding grounds for fish, the basic staple of millions of poor rural Cambodians, he says. Water regulation would kill off a unique ecosystem, he argues, and dams create sedimentation that would reduce the numbers and species of fish in the Mekong, believed to be the world's most bio-diverse river after the Amazon.

Debate also is going on at lower levels at the proposed sites for dams in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, although talk is not of cost-benefit and ecosystems but day-to-day survival and love of the land. There is little evidence the people directly affected by mega-projects are being consulted.

At Sambor, which translates as "bounty," district chief Ngun Sambath says authorities haven't informed villagers about the proposed dam. Many interviewed have never heard of it.

"I'm for development. But if the impact is too great on villagers and their culture then there will be many problems," says Hong Bo Yuth, a Buddhist abbot. "Even if the government says the dam is good, I will oppose it. Nobody wants it here."

Arrayed around him are a dozen people, most of them elderly folk who survived American bombing and Khmer Rouge massacres in the 1970s. They sit in the shadows of the one hundred column pagoda, which is one of Cambodia's most revered shrines and would be submerged under the dam's reservoir.

The town of Sambor, 190 kilometers northeast of the capital, Phnom Penh, was a hub of an ancient kingdom and burial site of several kings. But the latest, 600-page study on Mekong dams doesn't mention its cultural significance and devotes just 56 words to the impact on wildlife.

Somebody in the group suggests moving the temple, under which legend says 100 sacrificial maidens lie buried. But several people answer in chorus, pointing to the pagoda.

"This is history," they say. "You cannot move history."

Water sharing in Mideast — Turkey under fire

By Herve Couturier
Agence France-Presse

HARRAN, Turkey — Harran, a semi-arid plain in southeast Turkey, has recaptured the green lushness recorded in antiquity thanks to a massive water project that has restored life but is also feeding a bitter dispute with neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

The region, a rectangle of 151,000 hectares that stretches from the eastern city of Sanliurfa to the Syrian border, corresponds roughly to what was upper Mesopotamia in ancient times.

Then fertile, its water resources were gradually drained in the destruction wrought by wars and excessive, crude irrigation projects, according to Turkish experts.

Today, nearly a quarter of the region is green again from water supplied by the distant Euphrates, with the rest to follow in a matter of time.

"Life here has completely changed," said Issa Acar, a local farmer who said his annual wheat harvest has increased by 80 per cent since water arrived in the region again. "Now I have a car and a house. My children go to school," he said.

The water, channelled by irrigation tunnels, is drawn from a retaining lake about 26 kilometers

away formed by the Ataturk dam. The sixth largest dam in the world, it is the pride of Turkey's massive water project.

This monumental undertaking, called Gap, is for 19 hydro-electric power plants and 22 dams along the Euphrates, the Tigris and other rivers in southeastern Turkey at a cost of \$32 billion, nearly all financed by Ankara.

Started in the 1970s, its completion is not expected until at least 2017, according to Oicay Unver, president of the Southeast Anatolia Development Administration.

The project is designed to irrigate a total area of 1.7 million hectares, or 10 per cent of Turkey's territory, and to create three million jobs.

Gap is "more than a water project" said Mr. Unver. "It is a socio-economic project that will also include agricultural training, pilot farms and community centres, or a sort of village schools where we will try to help women, generally disadvantaged in this region, to improve their lot."

Other than the Ataturk dam, two other dams have been built upstream on the Euphrates at Keban and Karakaya and two others downstream, at Birecik and Karkamis, the latter only a few kilometers from the Syrian border.

But both Iraq and Syria have hotly contested Turkey's water project, which they say Ankara undertook without consulting them. It is a factor in drawing Damascus and Baghdad closer together after years of hostility and has also attracted the wrath of Libya.

The two ancient rivers both have their source in Turkey. The Euphrates crosses into Syria then Iraq, while the Tigris flows directly to Iraq where the two rivers join up to form the Shatt Al Arab waterway that flows into the Gulf.

But Damascus and Baghdad accuse Turkey of limiting the flow of water running to the two Arab countries — which Ankara vehemently denies — and of using a regional waterway to exercise control over the region.

Citing a 1983 protocol signed with Syria that stipulates Turkey must allow the flow of at least 500 cubic meters of Euphrates water per second, Ankara says it supplies well over this.

But Syria and Iraq are demanding negotiations on the issue and an equal share in the waterways — meaning a third for each country.

The Arab League has tried to urge Turkey to open talks on the issue, but Turkey rejects any concept of dividing the

waters of the two rivers.

Instead, it has offered "joint usage" by the three countries. The United Nations has also stepped into the fray with the first international convention Setting out Guidelines Governing Dam Construction, the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly last month.

But Turkey — and another big dam-building country, China — fought the convention on grounds that it penalises "upstream" countries.

The problems drag on with analysts seeing no quick resolution — especially with old disputes and political tension complicating the picture.

Turkey says Syria showed no concern over Ankara's complaints that a dam project in the 1960s and 1970s on the Asi River, which starts in Lebanon, seriously limited its flow into Turkey.

Syria's territorial claim over Turkey's southern province of Hatay is not likely to help the issue, nor is what Turkey says is Syrian support for Turkish Kurd rebels.

"As long as this situation continues, we cannot seriously discuss the water problem," a Turkish government official said recently.

Jordan Times
Tel. 699634
684311

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Jordan is seeking to employ an Executive Secretary for the General Manager, who will be assigned to the CCBCJ offices in Al-Hizam district.

The applicant should have the following qualifications:

- * Jordanian only
- * Female
- * Fluent in spoken and written English and Arabic
- * Previous experience in Arabic/English translation
- * Computer literate, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint

We offer a very attractive salary based on the applicant's qualifications. Transportation to and from the office will be provided.

Qualified applicants, please contact:

CCBCJ, P.O.Box: 1414 Amman 11812 Jordan
Attn: General Manager

Please attach CVs and certificates.
All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Coca-Cola Bottling Company Jordan is seeking to employ a Human Resources Manager.

The applicant should have the following qualifications:

- * Jordanian only
- * At least 5 years experience in the same field, preferably in a multinational company
- * Capability in personnel training and organizational restructuring
- * Capability in setting up and implementing personnel systems.

Qualified applicants, please contact:

CCBCJ, P.O.Box: 1414 Amman 11812 Jordan
Attn: General Manager

Please attach CVs and certificates.
All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Job Opportunities

Jordanians Only

Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Jordan Ltd. has the following job vacancies:

1. Financial Controller

Responsibilities:
Senior financial position
Monitor business performance
Provide financial control services

Qualifications:

- CPA
- Graduate, preferably MBA
- At least 3 years previous experience as Financial Controller or Manager in a large company.
- Experience in preparing consolidated monthly reports
- Experience in designing financial procedures
- Background in internal and external audit.

2. Budget and Systems Manager

Responsibilities:
Senior financial position.
Produce business plans, estimates and forecasts
Design and implement financial systems

Qualifications:

- CPA Finalist
- University Graduate
- 3 to 5 years previous experience in the same field
- Background in internal and external audit
- Experience in reviewing external control systems
- Experience in financial analysis
- Experience in financial procedures design

3. Database Administrator

Responsibilities:
Maintenance of database
Provide database users with ad hoc reports

Qualifications:

- Familiarity with Oracle and/or Access
- University graduate
- 3-5 years previous experience in information systems for a large company

4. System and Design Analysts

Responsibilities:
Implementation of computer projects
Reviewing systems with a view to making the more effective

Qualifications:

- Familiarity with Oracle and/or Access
- University graduate
- 3-5 years previous experience in information systems for a large company

Applications should be supported by a CV, certificates and other documents.
Contact the General Manager, CCBCJ,
P.O. Box 1414 Amman 11821.



Statistics refute claims of Jordanian industries closing down and relocating

AMMAN — Statistics and tables dated July 1, 1997 and showing names of industrialists, volume of investments and number of workers refute recent rumours and press reports that claimed local industries were closing down and relocating in neighbouring countries.

According to Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation Assem Hindawi, there has not been any total closure for the past five years in terms of giving up the land, cancelling contracts or sale of property and fixed assets.

"Should there be a total closure, there are many procedures (rent of land, sale of property, cancelling or signing contracts, obtaining licences) to be taken, especially if the business carries a considerable investment. No industry closes down at the Sahab industrial estate without the corporation knowing about it," he stressed.

"I honestly have not heard of any industry closing down totally during the past five years," he said.

"The last closure was a small business owned by a man and his wife," according to Mr. Hindawi, the woman discovered that her husband was romantically involved with another woman and stopped financing the project.

The business closed down as a result," Mr. Hindawi said.

Commenting on some industries shifting their operations to neighbouring countries the director general said:

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

"The relocation news is not true at all. What is true is that some industrialists are expanding their businesses to other markets and setting up branches there, but that does not mean closing down their operations here."

Saying that the number of projects at the Sahab Industrial Estate did actually increase, Mr. Hindawi added that as recently as last month, the corporation was searching for a space to accommodate a newcomer. It succeeded in convincing an industrialist to share half of his hangar with the new investor.

According to the statistics and tables provided by Mr. Hindawi, there was a total of 346 industrial projects at Sahab as of July 1, 1997 compared to 340 projects at the end of 1996. The projects carried a total investment of JD593,132,216 in 1996, but the number of workers was less as the total dropped from 13,516 at the end of 1996 to 13,009 at the beginning of this month.

By sector, the statistics showed the following industries by type, investment and work-force:

1) 36 food industries having a total investment of JD104,252,991 and employing 1,747 workers.

2) 22 medicine industries carrying a JD49,017,001 investment and providing work for 844 persons

3) 82 engineering industries (metal and electrical) with investments totalling JD160,781,630 and a 3,027 workforce.

4) 49 plastic and rubber plants that have JD50,713,498 in total investments and 1,289 workers.

5) 48 chemical factories, having JD42,329,730 in investments and a 1,181 workforce.

6) 38 textile and cotton plants carrying a total investment of JD75,528,512 and employing 1,949 workers.

7) 23 furniture, kitchen and door factories with investments totalling JD22,439,156 and 721 labourers.

8) 28 printing, paper, packing and packaging works that have a total of JD72,030,963 of investments and a 1,834 workforce.

9) 10 construction industries carrying JD12,538,205 investments and providing jobs for 317 labourers.

10) 10 leather plants valued at JD3,500,000 and employing 100 workers.

Additional information and statistics supplied by the corporation reveal that out of the 346 industries, 28 are Arab investments, three are foreign, 29 are Arab-Jordanian ventures, four are Arab-foreign joint projects, 11 are Jordanian-foreign joint ventures and two are mixed investments by Jordanian, Arab and foreign investor.

These projects add up to a total of 78 industries valued at JD145,780,523 of investments and employing 2,817 persons. The largest of the investments are the joint Jordanian-Arab ventures which include 29 industries that employ 1,334 persons and have investments valued at JD64,223,537, followed by Jordanian-Arab-foreign partnership which include only two industries but are valued at JD24,258,242 and employ 156 employees.

The Arab and foreign investors at Sahab involved investors from more than 20 countries comprising Ukraine, Italy, Pakistan, Britain, Taiwan, Cayman Islands, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, United States, Syria, Sweden, China, Iraq, Turkey, Canada, France, Palestine, Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Austria.

The largest of the 78 industries are Iraqi investments as their number is around 40 industries valued at about JD45 million and employing nearly 1,000 workers.

The statements and statistics provided by Mr. Hindawi also covered the names, investments and number of employees at Al Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid.

In that area, the number of industries is 34 and the total investments is JD55.7 million compared to 53 industries valued at JD52.6 million at the end of 1996. The number of workers was 1,856 persons at the beginning of this month (1,822 persons at the end of 1996).

By sector, the projects are classified as follows:

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REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7880	0.5963	1.4723	115.43	1.3750	1740.50	2.0119	6.0427
DE Mark	0.5593	-	0.3335	0.8232	64.61	0.7688	972.89	1.1254	3.3787
GB Sterling	1.6755	2.9954	-	2.4651	193.25	2.3038	2916.21	3.3709	10.1245
CH Franc	0.6792	1.2141	0.4050	-	78.43	0.9340	1101.60	136.70	4.1029
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5473	0.5164	1.2732	-	1.1900	15.06	174.20	5.2285
CA Dollar	0.7273	1.2995	0.4336	1.0686	1.19	-	1265.21	1.4627	4.3931
IT Lira	0.0009	1.0258	0.3427	0.0846	1508.66	0.7699	-	11.56	3.4712
NL Guilder	0.4870	0.970	0.2963	0.7315	57.32	0.8626	864.19	-	3.0066
FR Franc	0.1955	0.2958	0.0987	0.24559	19.49	0.2275	33.31	33.3100	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KW	AED	LB	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6385	0.3034	3.5721	1534.00	3.3900
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2896	0.5317	5.1333	0.4279	5.1793	2163.61	4.7614
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.1090	-	0.1005	0.57	0.0809	0.98	409.01	0.9039
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9491	-	9.85	9.8048	9.74	4069.28	8.9928
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1948	1.0308	1.0305	-	0.0834	1.01	421.49	0.9314
Kuwait Dinar	3.2960	2.3368	12.3616	1.2425	12.00	-	12.10	5086.03	0.9314
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0214	1.0207	0.9911	0.0926	-	417.74	0.9322
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4622	2.4448	0.2457	2.3726	0.1970	2.3938	-	2.2099
Egyptian	0.2950	0.2091	1.1063	0.1112	1.0736	0.0895	1.0832	462.51	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	19.23	19.28
W. Texas	19.29	19.30
Bonny	19.23	19.28
Dubai	17.55	17.49
UL Gas	184.00	184.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Royal	0.2666	0.4769	0.15913	0.39254
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48704	0.16253	0.40091
KW Dinar	3.2960	5.89623	1.96734	4.85201
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.74383	1.58325	3.90472
CY Pound	1.9008	3.3977	1.1338	2.7965

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (ozs)	324.35	324.85
Silver (ozs)	4.27	4.29
Platinum (ozs)	405	408
AL (3 Months)	1591	1592
CU (3 Months)	2294	2299
Zinc (3 Months)	1520	1522
Lead (3 Months)	645	646
NI (3 Months)	6765	6785

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Period	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
USD	5.58	5.62	5.68	5.76
GBP	6.75	6.94	7.12	7.38
JPY	0.41	0.44	0.45	0.51
DEM	3.08	3.08	3.09	3.24
FRF	3.28	3.29	3.38	3.49
CHF	1.45	1.45	1.53	1.58
ITL	6.87	9.85	9.73	6.55

Main Equity Indices						
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low
New York	DOW JONES	7901.84	-110.53	-1.48	8036.1	7875.36
New York	S&P 500	914.57	-17.04	-1.83	931.61	912.9
London	FT-SE 100	4856.3	-92.7	-1.87	4996.1	4856.3
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20249.32	-269.93	-1.32	20545.2	20249.3
Paris	CAC 40	2848.29	-110.3	-3.73	2941.91	2843.41
Frankfurt	DAX	4196.53	-30.78	-0.73	4204.19	4173.1

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	174.42	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1559	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	330.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	139	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	22.05	Spot
Tea (\$/kg)	130	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates				
Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1845	1.1904	1.1845	1.1904
DE Mark	0.395	0.397	0.395	0.397
CH Franc	0.4798	0.4822	0.4798	0.4822
FR Franc	0.1169	0.1175	0.1169	0.1175
JP Yen	0.9122	0.9153	0.9122	0.9153
NL Guilder	0.3508	0.3526	0.3508	0.3526
IT Lira	6.406	6.408	6.406	6.408

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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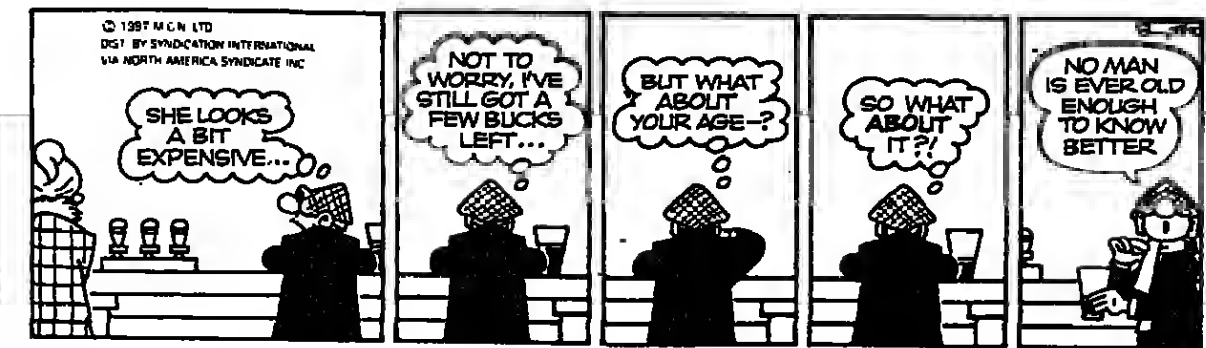
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Peanuts



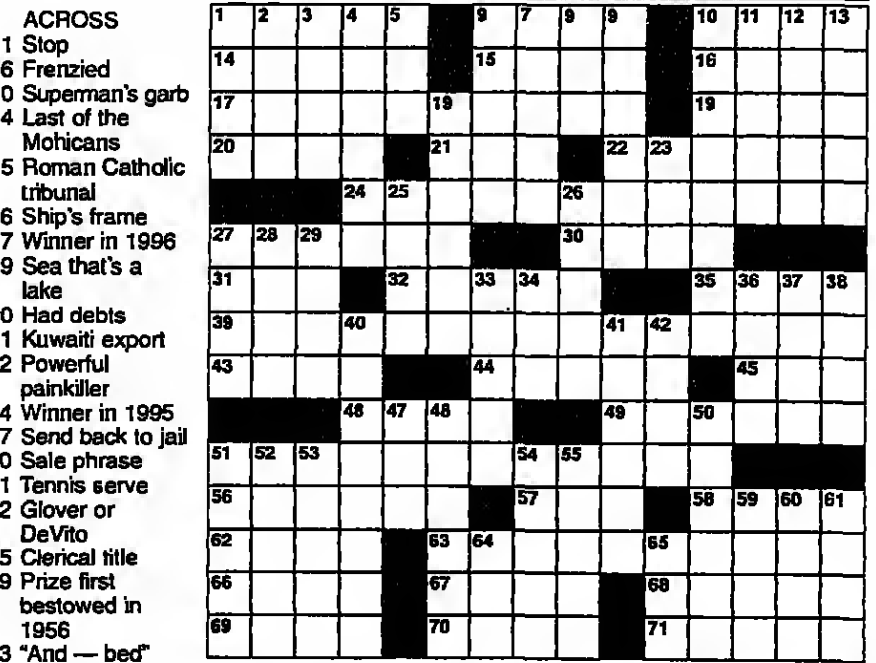
Andy Capp

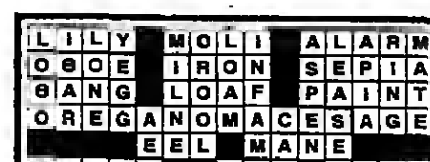


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword



5 Nasty fellow	8 Hall-of-famer Mel	
6 Instance	9 Musical toys	
7 Four score	10 Lumberjack's tool	
11 Winner in 1993	11 Emanations	
6 Muse of astronomy	12 Greek philosopher	
7 What earth orbits	13 TV's DeGeneres	
3 Tiny bit	18 Calendar word	
2 Trick	23 — Beta Kappa	
4 See 17A	25 Griffith or Garcia	
5 Toe the line	28 A Meadows	
7 Director Kazan	27 Phooey!	
8 Conspicuous success	28 Reverberation	
9 Beta and gamma	29 Encounter	
10 Penn or Connelly	33 Pried	

Hindawi describes rumours of closures and press reports in this regard as false and misleading

(Continued from page 8) tries valued at JD5.8 million and employing 212 workers.



Arab Investment and International Trade Company returns to profitability

**** THE ARAB Investment and International Trade Company** succeeded in turning 1996 into a profitable year after striving for the past four years to narrow losses. With total net sales at JD3.5 million and production cost dropping from 84 per cent of the sales to 81 per cent, the company posted a gross operating profit of JD656,000 compared to JD546,000 in 1996. After taking into account various other administrative expenses, depreciation and selling expenditures, the net profit stood at JD43,400.

The company's annual report highlighted the continued effort to reduce indebtedness noting that the balance of long-term loans at the end of last year amounted to JD251,000 compared to JD436,000 at the end of 1995. It also highlighted the growth in sales by six per cent despite stiffer competition in the fields of sanitary paper, soap and cleaning products.

Noting that exports of soap accounted for 36 per cent of total sales, the company last year won a contract to supply Iraq with 2,800 tonnes of toilet soap under the oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations in addition to the sales under the Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol. The soap produced by the company was also selling at the Civil Consumer Corporation market and the market that sells for military personnel only.

The cleaning products of the firm were difficult to sell, the annual report said, "due to large quantities of local and foreign similar products available in the market and our absence by the specifications and standards which limited our capability to market our products."

In order to upgrade and modernise production lines to be able to compete in the market, the company has signed a JD119,000 contract with an Italian firm to produce new types of baby diapers. The company is also planning to buy new production lines to produce sanitary pads for ladies. Grindlays Bank is expected to finance this project (Al Aswaq).

3) Ten Plastic and rubber industries carrying JD6.8 million in investments and employing 231 labourers.

4) Eight food industries having a total of JD2.2 million in investments and a 105 workforce.

5) Four furniture, kitchen and door industries with JD3.5 million of investments and 57 labourers.

6) One industry in the field of printing, packaging, paper and packing with an investment of JD3.5 million and a workforce of 72 workers.

7) Two textile and cotton plants carrying a JD2.8 million investment and employing 257 labourers.

8) One factory for construction industry valued at JD55,000 and employing six labourers.

Of the 54 mentioned industries, 14 have Arab, foreign or joint ventures according to the following breakdown:

1) Six Arab investments totalling JD6.4 million and employing 48 workers.

2) Four Jordanian-Arab investments valued at JD21.7 million and employing 745 employees.

3) Three Jordanian-foreign projects carrying investments of about JD2.9 million and providing jobs for 275 persons.

4) One foreign investment valued at JD200,000 and providing work for 24 labourers.

The total value of the aforementioned projects is about JD31.1 million and they employ 1,092 persons. They cover investments from Israel, U.S., Britain, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Holland.

Having covered the statistics and tables, Mr. Hindawi concluded by stressing that the Jordanian market is a free and open market and that funds flow to where it can achieve higher return and profitability.

"Jordanian investments in neighbouring markets should be seen as an optimisation of Jordanian capabilities and an expansion for higher profits to benefit the Jordanian investor and the Kingdom in general," he emphasised.

He described rumours of closures as false and press reports in this regard as totally misleading.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET



RANKING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXCHANGED	VALUE TRADED \$D	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
HIGH	LOW														
270.000	232.000	ARAB BANK	13.2	1.40	277	5524	2773305	270.00	386.00	371.00	286.00	+16.00	279.575	.225	5
2.350	2.050	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	157	110883	328331	3.05	3.10	3.02	3.00	+0.03	2.700	.364	5
5.800	5.450	CAIRO ARAB BANK	11.5	3.61	2	1000	10350	5.80	5.80	5.75	5.75	-0.05	5.750	.018	1
3.540	2.200	BANK OF JORDAN	6.7	0.00	13	7455	24074	3.25	3.37	3.11	3.20	-0.05	3.238	.071	4
.580	.930	KID. EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	37	87538	81544	.53	.54	.51	.52	-0.01	.627	.875	4
8.280	2.230	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	8.1	7.76	63	38755	41277	3.23	2.24	2.10	3.18	-0.05	2.156	.172	4
5.100	6.870	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.95	56	84263	423502	4.90	4.91	4.50	4.91	-0.01	4.500	.337	5
4.180	3.850	JOR. RENTAL BANK	10.0	0.00	37	21315	68240	3.85	3.84	3.71	2.81	-0.04	3.826	.313	4
.520	.850	JOR. ONLY BANK	6.4	5.09	46	68486	67758	.86	.93	.76	.77	-0.05	.746	.442	5
3.700	2.700	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	36.4	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	2.51	3.51	5.51	-0.15	3.511	.005	1
2.870	3.990	JOR. JERUSALEM BANK	15.5	3.16	66	20200	76671	3.90	2.82	3.77	3.80	-	3.756	.138	5
3.250	1.130	UNION BK. INV. INV.	105.2	0.00	5	3800	4434	1.16	1.30	1.16	3.28	+0.04	1.167	.035	4
9.200	2.900	JOR. SERV. FID. BANK	28.5	0.00	14	10381	32662	3.10	3.15	3.13	3.15	-0.09	3.164	.041	5
2.180	2.320	BETH-AL BANK (JERUSALEM)	-	33.16	1	100	114	2.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	-	1.140	.005	1
2.070	3.030	PHILADELPHIA INV. BK.	-	0.00	20	20688	20357	1.02	1.02	.92	.92	-0.09	.927	.210	4
CHANGE +0.267															
3.900	3.700	JORDAN INSURANCE	33.8	5.40	11	305560	307858	2.70	2.55	2.75	2.75	+0.05	2.800	2.155	4
2.280	0.130	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	12.8	7.25	2	6667	15334	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.50	+0.10	3.300	.556	1
2.800	3.800	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.5	5.00	5	2750	11000	2.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	+0.10	4.000	.254	1
3.870	2.660	JOR. FRENCH TRUST	6.5	12.50	40	26380	67103	1.64	1.64	1.55	1.55	-0.05	3.606	1.325	4
CHANGE +0.637															
1.680	3.820	JOR. ELECTRIC FID.	8.0	8.06	87	55113	50204	1.64	1.66	1.62	1.65	+0.03	1.635	.367	5
1.390	1.970	IBRD ELECTRICITY	8.2	8.33	2	500	3243	1.38	1.38	1.38	3.38	-	1.380	.030	1
2.880	8.450	IBRD ELECTRICITY	33.5	0.82	8	31737	83470	2.45	2.68	2.55	2.68	+0.23	2.830	27.246	4
7.000	5.000	ARAB TEL. CO.	10.5	5.00	11	6584	22502	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	-	4.966	.051	2
2.660	2.680	SCOTTISH LINES	18.0	4.73	10	25310	65506	2.44	2.75	3.66	3.75	+0.09	2.746	.365	2
2.430	3.270	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	365	275471	411075	1.42	1.55	1.36	1.45	+0.07	1.852	5.509	5
.870	.680	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	11.5	8.58	2	450	887	.87	.84	.86	.84	-0.01	.860	.010	1
.820	.420	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	28.2	0.00	4	11500	9818	.42	.35	.50	.51	-0.01	.506	.338	2
8.280	8.280	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	12.7	6.81	3	1200	8128	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	-	8.250	.073	3
1.630	3.200	KID. EAST INV. BK.	18.3	0.00	1	1700	2040	1.31	1.20	1.20	1.20	-0.01	1.200	.058	1
3.030	2.900	ARAB TEL. INV. BK.	7.8	0.00	14	33475	35850	2.53	2.57	2.50	2.97	+0.04	2.818	.135	4
.570	.530	SARFA INNOVATION	-	0.00	15	12700	11834	.53	.55	.53	.53	-	.932	.382	4
2.720	1.648	UNITED CO.	8.0	8.55	3	650	1556	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	-	1.680	.016	2
.730	.840	UNION LARD INV.	-	0.00	1	500	335	.67	.67	.67	.67	-	.670	.010	1
CHANGE +0.877															
4.170	4.020	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.3	2.72	168	231305	636402	4.06	4.07	4.04	4.05	-0.01	4.050	.383	5
6.100	2.900	JOR. PROGRESSIVE FID.	11.0	2.53	6	1653	6520	4.10	3.55	3.50	3.55	-0.15	3.544	.004	2
7.150	4.800	ARAB PORTLAND CEMENT	15.4	3.03	8	12116	8023	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	-0.05	4.500	.023	2
8.820	9.450	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	5.5	5.07	61	5687	55555	9.51	5.00	5.00	5.00	-0.01	5.835	.089	5
8.100	5.900	JORDAN TANNING	6.5	5.35	3	548	3074	5.50	5.61	5.61	5.61	-0.35	5.605	.055	3
3.200	3.250	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10.4	8.33	4	500	1080	1.35	1.30	1.30	1.20	-0.05	1.300	.060	2
3.580	2.770	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	-	0.00	30	2600	4436	1.77	1.73	1.65	1.73	-0.05	1.706	.052	4
8.280	8.000	JOR. PORTLAND CEMENT	5.7	3.33	5	1500	6060	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	-	6.000	.038	1
4.100	2.900	ARAB PETROL REFIN.	10.0	5.10	77	17383	67857	3.50	4.03	5.20	5.20	-0.10	5.105	.113	4
6.700	6.540	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	6.5	3.15	7	15553	103531	6.54	6.60	6.32	6.37	-0.37	6.553	.633	4
2.600	2.360	JORDAN DAIRY	8.2	10.10	3	460	1110	2.40	2.43	3.40	2.42	+0.02	3.413	.026	2
1.380	3.340	JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	16.5	6.02	13	2074	3832	1.34	1.34	1.31	1.33	-0.01	1.330	.088	5
2.700	2.700	JOR. PAPER CARD.	15.5	0.00	1	100	275	2.70	2.75	2.75	2.75	+0.05	2.750	.003	1
6.000	5.830	ARAB CHEN. DRUGS	15.3	6.00	3	380	1930	5.83	5.84	5.80	5.80	-0.03	5.825	.053	3
5.680	5.380	DAIRY ALUM. IND.	12.7	6.81	3	6707	34774	5.30	5.23	5.10	5.20	-0.02	5.105	.113	4
2.800	2.430	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.25	13	3356	7686	2.44	2.45	3.40	3.43	-0.01	2.435	.053	5
.680	.680	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	5.7	0.00	36	38000	17342	.46	.46	.45	.48	-	.456	1.153	4
3.040	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	33.1	0.00	23	39608	28824	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.05	+0.05	1.000	.046	5
.540	.510	NATIONAL INDUS.	-	0.00	14	10425	5524	.52	.52	.53	.52	-	.520	.177	4
.810	.420	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	36	10680	7365	.32	.33	.32	.33	+0.01	.326	.251	4
.650	.560	JOR. ROPEWORKS	-	0.00	3	450	246	.56	.55	.55	.54	-0.01	.547	.008	1
1.800	1.710	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	14.7	6.13	2	1068	1704	1.71	1.63	1.63	1.63	-0.08	1.626	.070	2
2.350	2.500	RAIL. CABLE WIRE MAN.	40.1	0.00	3	8500	21250	3.50	2.50	2.50	3.50	-	2.500	.170	2
.800	.540	JOR. SOLAR CONV.	-	0.00	9	7500	4066	.55	.55	.53	.54	-0.01	.542	.187	4
3.430	3.360	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	37.1	5.22	23	3585	3538	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	-0.02	1.343	.080	5
3.030	.860	WANTHER INVEST.	76.9	0.00	4	1150	903	.86	.82	.78	.78	-0.08	.785	.058	2
1.380	3.170	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	62.15	.33	74	70690	88366	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.11	-0.07	1.124	1.572	5
3.160	1.400	JOR. PETRO. REFIN.	10.0	5.10	36	105797	109714	1.08	1.09	1.00	1.08	-0.01	1.038	3.321	5
17380	1.430	RAIL. CHEMICAL	13.0	5.07	24	28548	28880	1.43	1.46	1.38	1.38	-0.05	3.406	.295	4
.840	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	52	33347	27504	.82	.86	.81	.86	+0.01	.825	.437	5
2.510	2.420	EL. WARE READY WEAR	50.3	0.00	15	6500	9414	1.45	1.47	1.43	1.43	-0.02	1.448	.087	4
3.250	1.080	IND. TOBACCO	6.4	0.00	50	165558	385882	1.32	3.37	1.13	1.17	+0.05	1.145	1.636	5
.890	.870	UNION CH. & YEN.	40.9	0.00	20	12044	11320	.87	.53	.87	.50	+0.03	.881	.285	4
CHANGE +1.057															
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR 990 639727 1802897 INDEX NUMBER : 126.15 CHANGE +1.1057															
GRAND TOTAL 8414 1901384 6770356 INDEX NUMBER : 165.43 CHANGE +1.1872															
390 -470 CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE - 0.00 8 14050 8281 .39 .38 .37 .38 -.01 .376 4.336 3															
470 -430 JOR. TRADE FID. 11.2 0.00 58 181800 79417 .43 .45 .43 .43 -.01 .431 4.339 5															
590 -450 ARAB FIN. INVEST. - 0.00 44 40780 18056 .46 .46 .43 .45 -.03 .444 4.07 5															
600 -650 UNION INV. 502 - 0.00 104 614322 114654 .68 .70 .68 .70 +0.02 .687 2.793 5															
1.150 1.070 KARA FOR INVESTMENT 75.4 - 0.00 28 85558 98304 1.15 1.16 1.09 1.15 - 1.148 .314 5															
730 -710 JOR. FIN. INV. CO. - 0.00 120 203531 116279 .71 .66 .54 .55 -.16 .571 2.714 5															
440 -410 AL-BANILYAN 754 68.5 0.00 12 25771 9575 .63 .63 .63 .63 - .572 .184 4															
750 -720 AL-BANILYAN 754 264.1 0.00 21 62948 34957 .68 .68 .68 .68 - .680 .237 5															
1250 -610 AR. PORT & MTD. 15.5 0.00 10 18358 9644 .53 .53 .53 .53 - .527 .514 3															
420 -380 ARAB INTL. INV. TRD. - 43.8 0.00 9 5728 2223 .39 .39 .38 .38 -.01 .388 .115 3															
290 -230 JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JENCO - 0.00 21 20500 5560 .28 .28 .26 .26 -.02 .271 1.286 4															
400 -450 NAXL. TEXTILE - 0.00 13 1400 648 .47 .45 .45 .47 - .463 .056 3															
440 -440 NAXLAK DIES & MOULDERS - 0.00 7 3100 1363 .46 .45 .43 .43 -.03 .440 .207 2															
610 -610 KIDNEY PHARM. 754 0.00 3 577 305 .57 .57 .57 .57 - .562 .006 1															
760 -730 JORDAN ELECT. 33.0 6.85 33 35470 26224 .75 .76 .72 .73 -.02 .735 .216 5															
500 -590 ARAB EXCH. INDUS. - 0.00 4 717 358 .50 .50 .50 .50 - .509 .012 2															
520 -080 UNION TOBACCO 754 - 0.00 17 10542 7304 .52 .54 .52 .54 +0.02 .675 .215 5															
580 -560 RAYI PHARM. 854 - 0.00 25 32600 13058 .56 .56 .55 .55 -.01 .400 .326 5															
290 -250 INDUS. ENG. 28.3 0.00 47 34150 11463 .35 .35 .32 .32 -.02 .336 .488 5															
700 -700 INDUS. CHEMICAL 19.7 0.00 10 30600 23564 .78 .78 .75 .75 -.03 .746 .760 1															
280 -260 I. TEXTILE MANUF. - 0.00 2 900 358 .35 .35 .35 .35 - .350 .035 3															
670 -570 PEARL SAN. P. CONV. - 0.00 3 1265 730 .57 .57 .56 .56 -.01 .562 .032 2															
550 -620 NAXL. FOUTLEY - 0.00 32 68480 41106 .63 .63 .55 .63 -.03 .600 .685 4															
650 -500 READE MIX CONCRETE 11.2 0.00 2 3100 2893 .63 .63 .63 .63 - .630 .303 2															
720 -770 MAST. INDUSTRIES 754 101.6 0.00 27 14612 7545 .77 .76 .73 .73 -.04 .485 .137 5															
650 -610 KID. EAST CONVEY. 7.0 15.37 6 55069 .63 .63 .63 .63 - .740 .009 1															
780 -760 ARAB INTL. PORT FID. 25.7 0.00 1 550 407 .76 .74 .74 .74 - .699 .435 5															
610 -530 NAXL. MVT. ENG. MANCO - 0.00 119 183640 94176 .53 .54 .46 .51 -.02 .503 .612 5															
GRAND TOTAL 841 3798627 702204															

Jordan earns two bronze boxing medals at 8th Pan-Arab Games

By Aileen Bannayan
and JSYIF
press committee

JORDAN'S BOXING team added two more bronze medals and advanced to play for a silver or gold on the 6th day of the 8th Pan-Arab Games currently underway in Beirut.

Khalidoun Abdul Hameed won the 57-kilogramme bout against Syria's Yousef Mahdi to take a bronze and Basel Hindawi lost to Tunisia's Mohammad Marmouri in the 71-kilogramme semifinal bout to settle for another bronze.

As the table tennis competition opened, Jordan beat Palestine and Lebanon 3-2, and lost to Egypt 3-0.

The Kingdom will get two more medals as boxer Mohammad Abu Khadijeh was playing the heavy-weight semifinal bout against Lebanon's Ali Mansour in a late match and Ayman Al Nadi reached the 63-kilogramme final after beating Syria's Rabi Hajjar.

Friday's two medals brought Jordan's tally up to 12 with two gold, two silver and 8 bronze medals.

Fakhreddin Fuad had clinched the Kingdom's second gold medal in the high jump, while teammate Ala' Abdul Hadi secured a bronze medal in the triple jump in the athletics competition.

Ayed Khawaldeh had become the first Jordanian to win three weightlifting medals: Nada Kassar had won Jordan's first gold medal in the discus and added a silver medal in the shot put; Amal Matari won a bronze in the women's marathon; Amer Natour took silver and bronze medals in fencing while Kamal Abdul Majid took another bronze in boxing.

Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

In line with international rules, drug testing was introduced for the first time

19 countries are taking part in the Beirut Games with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

Twenty events are being held at the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes are competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brotherhood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of provoking Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon is hosting the Arab world's premier sports event for the first time since the second Arab Games in 1957.

Jordan has received approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001. Kuwait was chosen as a substitute in case Jordan withdrew their bid.

Jordanian sports officials have underlined their support for organising and taking part in the Pan-Arab Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 23 bronze).

Schedule of events of Jordanian competitors at the 8th Pan-Arab Games for Saturday July 19, 1997

- Basketball Jordan-Tunisia (women's match)
- Boxing Final rounds
- Table Tennis Jordan-Libya (men)
- Judo
- Weightlifting

Medal standings following Thursday's events at the 8th Pan-Arab Games:

Nation	G	S	B	Total
Egypt	20	15	13	48
Algeria	16	12	15	43
Morocco	12	11	4	27
Qatar	8	4	2	14
Saudi Arabia	4	5	5	14
Tunisia	4	2	6	12
Syria	2	9	12	23
Lebanon	2	6	8	16
Jordan	2	2	6	10
Kuwait	1	5	8	14
Oman	1	1	1	3
Sudan	0	1	2	3

Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 23 bronze).

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Rabat 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Jordan keeps alive qualifying chance in men's basketball

CHEERED ON by the soccer delegation, Jordan beat Morocco 59-47 Friday to keep alive their qualifying hopes in the men's basketball competition at the 8th Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

Jordan will have to beat Syria in their next match Sunday hoping that the Saudis also beat Syria to secure the Kingdom's qualification to the second round.

The Jordanian team had lost 88-59 to Saudi Arabia complicating their chances of advancing to the second round from Group 1 which also includes Libya. Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE and Kuwait.

The top two teams in each group will contest the semi-final round starting July 23.

Against Morocco the Kingdom's team seemed to have the upper hand and got over the technical difficulties surrounding the head coach whose tantrums led officials to add Rizeq Masri and women's coach Fadi Sabbah to assist him during matches.

Zeid Alkhas, a key player who has just returned from Korea after an impressive performance in the Asian All-Star Game led the team but was carefully guarded and was held to only 8 points as teammate Husam Lutfi carried the team and scored 22 points.

Jordan took a 20-10 lead and won the first half 27-19. The Kingdom's team maintained their lead and set the pace as younger teammates Mahmoud Sb'aban and Faisal Nsour played.

Jordan had scored a 95-66 win over Libya in their first match.

The team is led by a young lineup having a tough task ahead with big names like Hilal Barakat, Yousef Zaghoul, Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Ma'touq missing from the lineup.

Jordan had objected to the two group draw since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should have been divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, Lebanese officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw it would not be accepted.

Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team were crowned champions after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final in the 1985 Games in Morocco. They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

Jordan meets Tunisia tonight in women's basketball

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

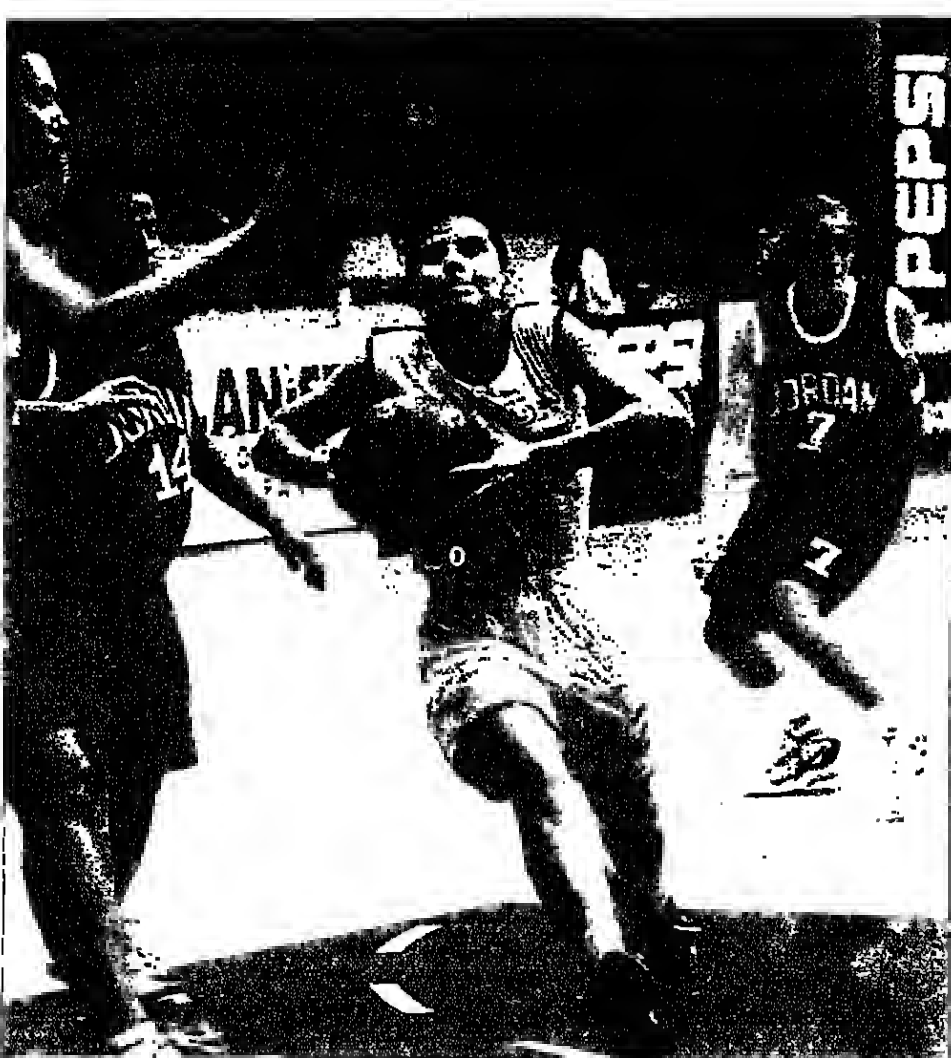
JORDAN'S WOMEN'S basketball team Saturday meet their Tunisian counterparts in their third match hoping to score a win to keep alive their hopes of a bronze medal.

Jordan boosted their chances following a hard fought 56-53 win over Syria Thursday night. After tonight's match they will next meet Lebanon and a win in one of the two matches will put them in contention for a top-three place.

Jordan's win over Syria was a morale-boosting result for the team and women's basketball in general as a big question mark loomed over the team's participation in the Pan-Arab Games after they lost three of their friendly matches against Syria and were the only given the go-ahead to take part in the Games to ensure continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team took part in the Asian Championship.

Tunisia and Lebanon seem to be the top two in the five-team event. Jordan had lost to Egypt 79-46 and Lebanon beat Syria 57-44 in the opening matches.

Jordan's win over Syria came when Zina Farah led



Syria's Elizabeth Simonian makes her way among the Jordanian defence of Jumana Salti and Hala Muheisen (14) to score a basket during the Pan-Arab Games qualifications in Beirut 17 July. Jordan won 56-53 (AFP photo)

the team as teammates Jumana Salti and Hala Muheisen were fouled out in the final five minutes of the second half.

With the combined efforts of Rana Hussein who scored 11 points, Jumana Salti with 8, and Muheisen 11, Jordan ended the first half leading 32-22.

However, at the beginning of the second half, Syria managed to narrow the gap through Elizabeth Mouradian and Eva Saras but Jordan caught up and both teams drew at 45-45.

Syria led 49-45. Jordan lost the efforts of fiery playmaker Muhelsen and Salti in the 14th minute of the second half with Jordan leading 52-51. Farah took over the post and scored 4 consecutive points to hold on to a precious victory.

Jumana Salti, who was chosen as one of the Asian Championships' five top players in 1995 is leading the Jordanian team which includes Rana Hussein, Hala Muheisen, Zina Farah, Luma Abu Judum, Hind Ghouri, Hala Khalaf, Hala Ghattas, Lubna Masri, Sirsa Naghaway, Tala Mauge and Tetyana Qardan.

Basketball is the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Soccer chances difficult

Jordan will meet Oman Sunday and will have to win by a big margin after the team nearly lost their chance to qualify to the second round following their 1-1 draw against Libya Thursday night. A win was vital since all teams in the group have not yet scored victories and are tied in overall points.

Jordan had tied Lebanon 1-1 and Libya and Oman were unimpressive in their 2-2 draw.

Aboudi eyes gold

Weightlifter Ahmad Aboudi will contest the gold medal today in the 91-kilogramme category. Aboudi will be vying for new records in the snatch and jerk and combined events.

Shooting practice continues

After the shooting team of Aysar and Mohammad Hiyari and Sa'ad Al Absi finished fourth among five nations, Khaled Naghaway will contest the individual skeet finals starting Monday.

Naghaway continued practice Saturday and Sunday in preparation for the Monday's competition.

Blocked by traffic, cycling race suspended

BAALBEK (AP) — The 50-kilometre counter-clockwise men's cycling race was suspended Friday in Eastern Lebanon after heavy car traffic blocked the route and a contestant was hit by a passing vehicle.

Oman's Yousef Khanfar Al Shikli, 60, was slightly injured in the hand.

Organisers said an announcement would be made later to determine whether to reschedule the race or cancel it.

Five other competitions were to be contested for medals in the Beirut area later Friday — three in women's judo and two in men's judo.

Only three of the 15 cyclists were able to finish the race on a country road between the town of Choura and the ancient city of Baalbek.

Al-Shikli, who came third

in the race, bumped into two cars on the road, 15 kilometres into the race.

Five more kilometres down the road, he lost balance and was hit by a car as he tried to abruptly stop after cars blocked the road.

Algerian referee Mohammed Nassereddine complained that the road should have been clear of cars.

"Arab and international standards were lacking for such a race," he said.

The race began at 9:30 a.m. Syria's Muhammad Katebi, 53, finished first, followed by Algeria's Suleiman Bu Zeitoun, 64.

Ali Darwish of the United Arab Emirates was the fourth and last to reach the finish line near the Roman ruins of Baalbek. The remaining 11 gave up after they were confronted with vehicles that blocked the road.

National Rally to be held July 25

AMMAN (I.T.) — The third round of the 1997 Jordan Drivers Open starts

Friday July 25 when drivers pass through 73.32 kilometres of special stages in the 288.49-kilometre-long national rally.

Drivers will head north to Marsa'a, Rumman, Sleith, in asphalt and track stages taking the reverse route to return back to Marsa'a.

After regrouping at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, the rally will continue to two stages each at Rumman and Sleith before the event concludes at about 6:30 p.m.

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2nd Division Basketball Wihdat, Jeel, Ashrafieh and Raya move to final round

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The preliminary round of the Second Division Basketball Championship ended Friday with Al Wihdat, Al Jeel, Al Ashrafieh and Al Raya advancing to the second and final round of the 1998 season.

While qualification rested on tight competition in the Amman Group A matches, Group B teams in Irbid had the easier ride and advanced to the final round by default.

In Amman, Homenmen, previously a First Division team, who have failed to gain promotion for the third year running, fought it out against newcomers Al Wihdat who seem to be determined to have a successful first season in basketball alongside their record-holding soccer team.

Al Wihdat beat Homenmen 109-84 and both teams tied in overall points but Al Wihdat qualified on score difference.

They will be joined by Al Jeel who beat Abu Nusair 61-39 Friday evening. Ebbin and Sama had another match in Irbid the result of which was unavailable by press and

does not affect the overall standings.

Al Jeel and Al Wihdat will face Ashrafieh and Raya in the second round starting next week with the teams from Amman having the better advantage and chance of making it to the First Division which now includes Jazireh, Ahli, Orthodoxi, and Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team, Al Watani and Yarmouk were relegated to the Second Division this year.

Al Jeel remained the only unbeaten team in the preliminary round in

which 12 teams representing both Second and Third Division clubs played in two groups.

Group A included Al Jeel, Abu Nusair, Homenmen and Al Wihdat and Shihan. Group B included Gazet Hashem, Al Raya, Qamim, Ebbin, Sama and Al Ashrafieh.

The top two teams in each group qualified to the final round.

The Jordan Basketball Federation rules stipulate that Second Division teams be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

Standings after first round

Group A	TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
	Al Jeel	4	4	0	277	184	8
	Homenmen	5	2	3	282	280	7
	Wihdat	4	3	1	347	286	7
	Abu Nusair	4	2	2	225	227	6
	Shihan	4	0	4	176	310	4

Group B	TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
	Ashrafieh	5	5	0	272	142	10
	Raya	5	4	1	257	175	9
	Qamim	5	2	3	215	189	6
	Ebbin	4	4	0	189	185	6
	G. Hashem	5	1	4	196	200	6
	Sama	4	0	4	99	289	4

* qualified to final round

Kuerten suffers more trouble in Stuttgart

STUTTGART (R) — French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, going through hard times since his unexpected triumph on the Paris clay last month, pulled out of the Stuttgart clay-court tournament with injury on Thursday.

Brazilian Kuerten, who stumbled out of Wimbledon at the first hurdle when he fell in five sets to little-known American Justin Gimelstob, was trailing 4-1 to Spaniard Felix Mantilla when he retired with a pulled stomach muscle.

Kuerten, seeded eighth here, was not the only one to suffer pain as local hero Boris Becker had earlier pulled out with a knee injury minutes before the start of his scheduled third round match against Spaniard Albert Costa.

Becker, playing his first tournament since his emotional farewell to Wimbledon, left Stuttgart for Munich where he will see his doctor and decide whether to take part in next week's tournament in Kitzbuehel, Austria.

There was disappointment also for Chilean Marcelo Rios, the fifth seed, who was crushed in straight sets by unseeded Karol Kucera of Slovakia.

Kucera now meets former French Open champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

Seles not ready to roll over for younger generation

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Monica Seles is not ready to pass the torch to the younger generation represented by two high-profile 16-year-olds, top-ranked Martina Hingis of Switzerland and Russian star Anna Kournikova, now ranked 25th.

"Every seven, eight years, there's a new generation of young players coming along to push the older ones," said the 23-year-old Seles, involved in a non-WTA tour even this week in her first action since Wimbledon.

"We're not ready to roll over. When Jennifer Capriati and I came along Steffi (Graf) and Gabby (Gabriela Sabatini) felt the same way. I'm still very young, ready for the challenge. These younger players provide us with extra motivation."

Seles believes that Graf feels the same. "A lot depends on how much time she will be able to practice before coming back from knee surgery," said Seles, who has won nine grand slam titles and Graf 21. "It will take a while but if anyone can do it, I think that Steffi can."

Seles opened her action at the \$125,000 AP Classic Thursday night with a 6-1 6-1 victory over American qualifier Terry Ann Zawacki in 51 minutes.

Despite 41 winners, Seles



Anna Kournikova

was unhappy with the 27 unforced errors that she committed. "I will have to raise the level of my game in the next round," she said.

In the quarter-finals, Seles will play hard-hitting 15-year-old Mirjana Lucic of Croatia, who has moved to 68th in the world after only three pro tournaments.

Kournikova, a semi-finalist in her first Wimbledon earlier this month, is seeded

second here.

Seles says she has been working hard to regain her former world championship form. But she admits that it has been a hard struggle and that it will be long way to go.

"When you have not been playing for two and a half years, you don't have the same conviction when you hit a tennis ball," said the Yugoslav-born player, who

became a U.S. citizen in 1994. She was put out of action when she was stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on April 30, 1993.

"Those years were stolen from me and there's nothing one can do to change it. That's the fact and you have to move on."

To Seles, tennis is "still fun" even though she says that "losses are still hard to take," returning to earlier form is what drives her on. "To have a dominant game, a lot of things have to come together," she said.

"If I didn't think I could do that then I wouldn't be out there. I need the same foundation in my game that I had in 1992. I want to reclaim the feeling I used to have, to be able to control the points. Sometimes I feel I have it in the beginning of matches and then I lose that consistency."

But she continues to search for the championship touch that carried her to eight of her Nine Grand Slam crowns before the knife.

Winning Grand Slams is still her major goal. "I played well at the French Open (losing a tough three-setter to Hingis in the semi-finals) but I didn't regain that form at Wimbledon," she said. "I'm hoping for a good summer leading up to the U.S. Open."



Prince Naseem Hamed (L) squares up to his next opponent, Argentinian Juan Cabrera at a pre fight news conference. Hamed, the current World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, predicted that he would knock his opponent out in the second round on July 19 (Reuters photo)

Chang rallies to reach Washington ATP quarter-final

WASHINGTON (AFP) — World No. 2 Michael Chang rallied to beat 163rd-ranked fellow-American Michael Joyce 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 here Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the ATP Washington classic — then admitted that he is still not at his best.

Top-seed Chang is seeking a tour-best fifth title of the year in his first hard-court tournament since winning at Hong Kong in April and the \$675,000 Washington event is the first tune-up for the U.S.

Open which is just five-and-a-half weeks away.

"My complete game is not there yet but I'm competing well," said Chang, adding: "I know the things I need to work on. Everything can be better."

Chang, 30-10 overall and 25-3 on hardcourts this year, hit 15 aces and won five of eight break points to advance in 92 minutes.

It was his second three set match after his tough struggle against Mexican Luis Herrera in the second round.

"It's good to get through these kind of matches," Chang said.

"As the summer goes on, these matches make you tougher mentally."

Chang advanced to a showdown with 66th-ranked Scott Draper of Australia. Draper, who beat American Steve Campbell 6-3, 7-6 (9/7), is 1-1 against Chang, ousting him last month at the Queen's Cup.

"Scott plays a good all-around game," Chang said. "He has a good serve

and-volley game and plays well from the back. He has developed his game and become a more dangerous player."

Second-seed Petr Korda ensured his return to the world's top-20 after an absence of almost two-and-a-half years, beating Dutchman Fennon Wibier 6-4, 6-4.

The 21st-ranked Czech veteran was as high as fifth in the world in 1992 when he finished second at the French Open — his best

Grand Slam showing but he has not been in the top 20 since February 6, 1995.

Korda plays doubles partner Tommy Haas, the eighth seed from Germany, in the quarter-finals. Haas beat Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4.

Other quarter-finals send qualifier David Wheaton, rated 232nd, against fellow American Vince Spadea and New Zealand's Brett Steven against 192nd-ranked Rainer Schuttler of Germany.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY Social Productivity Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan is inviting interested individuals to submit applications for the position of Director of the Project Coordination and Support Unit (PCSU) of the Jordanian Government's Social Productivity Programme (SPP). The SPP, formally announced in April of this year, is a multi-year initiative which is intended to (1) lift all Jordanians above the poverty line, (2) raise the living conditions of the poor through universal access to good public infrastructure and services, and (3) alleviate the situation of unemployment among the poor.

The responsibility for managing and coordinating the SPP will be vested in the PCSU, which falls under the authority of and will be housed within the Ministry of Planning (MoP). By funding and implementing the PCSU, UNDP-Jordan's main objective is to assist the Government with establishing an effective mechanism to programme, mobilize resources, coordinate, and monitor the SPP as a whole and its various components. As such, the Director should be a Jordanian citizen and a mid-career professional with significant managerial and social science expertise, and have thorough knowledge of both the Government of Jordan and the donor community.

Specific responsibilities of the position include the following:

- To maintain regular contacts with and advise the Minister of Planning, the Steering Committee, and all concerned parties charged with the implementation of the SPP program through information sharing and ensuring coordination among the various components.
- To maintain regular contacts with all concerned donors regarding scope, purpose and objective of the SPP and project implementation issues.
- To ensure that the Unit's tasks are completed in a timely and professional manner in conformance with SPP objectives.
- To participate as an active member on boards and committees which are being established to guide the implementation of SPP project components, as well as overseeing the progress of these components.
- To supervise the generation and analysis of data and preparation of all reports, programme planning, annual project implementation reports, technical, and ad hoc reports.

Qualifications and Experience:

- MA or PH.D. in an appropriate field such as economics, social science, or technical areas related to the SPP and a minimum ten years of proven management experience in government, the private sector, or the non-governmental community as demonstrated by specific accomplishments and collaborative management approaches.
- Technical expertise and knowledge of Jordanian national policies to address sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, employment generation and equitable access to services.
- Complete fluency in Arabic and English with experience in report preparation and writing, and proven leadership, interpersonal, and team-building skills.

All applications should be received in our office no later than July 31, 1997 in an envelope marked Social Productivity Programme. Short-listed candidates will be expected to take a written test and appear before an interview panel.

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Frustrated Turkey lowers EU priority

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey, frustrated by exclusion from the European Union's enlargement plans, suggested Friday reduced interest in full membership of the union, saying it would seek new cooperation with other areas in the world.

"Turkey is not condemned to a waiting process whose duration and result are uncertain," Foreign Minister Ismail Cem told a news conference here to outline the new Turkish government's foreign policy priorities.

"On the one hand, Turkey will continue its efforts to join the EU without making this issue an obsession. And on the other hand, (it) will take its political and economic dynamism to other parts of the world," Mr. Cem said.

The European Commission on Tuesday agreed to back the entry of five eastern European states plus Cyprus into the EU in the next decade, with accession talks due to start in early 1998.

Turkey, another candidate, was given no such

encouragement. "This move is unjust, but is not the end of the world for Turkey," Mr. Cem said. "Also, let the other side (the EU) think a little bit about what it will lose without Turkey's dynamism."

"Turkey, with its geographic, historical and cultural features, is both European and Asian at the same time. This is our privilege and strength," he said.

Mr. Cem said his government would in particular seek to boost economic ties with large-scale economies of Russia, India and China. Turkey and Russia are already each other's second-biggest trading partners. Bilateral trade last year exceeded \$10 billion, according to officials from both countries.

Turkey's bilateral trade with China and India in 1995 totalled \$600 million and \$260 million respectively.

The foreign minister of the new government, formed this month, said Ankara will also seek to bolster trade ties with Islamic states and Black

Sea and southeast Asian countries.

Mr. Cem is from the Democratic Left Party of nationalist deputy prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, who is known for his hard-line policies on the Cyprus question and support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in disputes with the United States.

The so-called agenda 2000 document agreed at the European Commission on EU enlargement still has to be approved by the heads of state or government of all current members at a meeting in December.

For countries not included, the commission proposed the creation of a standing conference designed to help them address the problems which currently stand as barriers to their membership.

Turkey, which has had a membership application rejected, will also be included in the standing conference, despite reservations in some quarters about the implications of integrating a large Muslim state into the union.



The U.S. space shuttle Columbia completes its landing roll with its drag chute deployed, and flanked by flood lights on runway 33 at Kennedy Space Center, Florida on Thursday. Columbia and her seven-person crew returned to Earth at the completion of a 16-day science mission (AFP photo)

Algeria warns FIS leader on parole

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian interior ministry Friday warned Islamist leader Abassi Madani against violating the conditions set for his parole following remarks made to the press.

Interior Minister Mustafa Ben Mansour issued an order Thursday saying that under the conditions of his parole Mr. Madani "must refrain from any verbal or written statement to the national or international media."

In a statement to the media Thursday Mr. Madani urged an end to the violence that has swept the north African country since 1992.

Mr. Madani was also prohibited from taking part "in any meeting or public demonstration" and any "kind of partisan or political activities," according to the order quoted by the official APS news agency.

Columbia returns home after 16 days in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Columbia touched down at sunrise Thursday in Florida after completing a research mission cut short in April.

Columbia, the oldest of NASA's four shuttles, landed at Florida's Kennedy Space Center at 6:46 a.m. EDT (10:46 GMT) under the first rays of the morning sun.

"Welcome home. Columbia. Congratulations on a perfect mission," mission control's Don Gorie radioed the shuttle after it came to a stop on the runway.

"It was great to be up there and it's good to be back," shuttle commander Jim Halsell replied.

Columbia's belly caught the morning sun as the craft soared above Florida's east coast, rattling windows with a powerful double sonic boom. Views of the shuttle's final approach to its 4,500-metre runway were broadcast from a camera mounted in the cockpit window of co-pilot Susan Still.

With Com. Halsell and Co-pilot Still aboard

Columbia were astronauts Don Thomas, Janice Voss and Michael Smith and guest researchers Roger Crouch and Gregory Binter.

During their 16-day mission, the astronauts completed an \$86 million research programme left unfinished in April, when the shuttle had to return to earth 12 days early because of a defective power generator.

It was the first time NASA had sent a shuttle and its crew back to space to complete a mission. Columbia was made ready for its second try at the mission in near-record time, spending only 56 days in its hangar.

"We feel very satisfied at this point in time because we've been able to accomplish the mission that we set out to do back in April," Com. Halsell said after leaving the shuttle. "We got all the science, plus more that we were anticipating."

Since blasting off, July 1, Columbia's crew performed more than 30 experiments and ignited 206 controlled fires for

combustion research, 42 more than originally planned.

"We've done better than anybody expected," mission scientist Michael Robinson said. "The combustion research, which took place inside specially designed safety containers, could bring direct benefits for everyday life on earth, according to project scientists."

"It may lead to better gas mileage and less auto emissions," said Paul Ronney of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Other research in the shuttle's bus-sized laboratory involved plant growth in zero gravity and attempts to develop new materials, including metallic glass.

Shuttle programme manager Tommy Holloway told a news conference after the landing there were no plans to move up Shuttle Atlantis' planned September visit to Russia's ailing Mir space station.

NASA's next shuttle mission, an atmospheric research flight, is tentatively scheduled for launch, Aug. 7.

EU trying to arrange Levy-Arafat meeting in Brussels

TEL AVIV (AP) — The U.S. is preparing a new initiative to start talks on a final Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement within two months, Israel TV said Thursday.

The report, which could not be officially confirmed, came amid a flurry of diplomatic contacts aimed at ending the four-month crisis between Israel and the Palestinians.

An Israeli official confirmed media reports that the talks focused on Israel's charges that Palestinian policemen had planned attacks against Israeli civilians.

Israel this week arrested four Palestinian policemen accused of planning such attacks. Mr. Arafat Thursday called the arrests by Israel "a big mistake."

During Wednesday's meeting, Mr. Ayalon told Mr. Arafat that the issue constituted "the most severe violation" by the Palestinians since the peace process began and warned him that the Palestinians must seriously investigate Israel's claims, the report said.

Mr. Ayalon also told Mr. Arafat that his rule and perhaps his life were endangered by such subterfuge within his ranks, it said. Mr. Netanyahu's adviser, David Bar-Ilan confirmed the meeting took place, and said Israel has clear evidence that "orders were issued by high-ups in the [Palestinian] armed forces." Mr. Bar-Ilan could not confirm the Israel TV report about an American plan to jump-start peace talks.

According to the TV, U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross would return to the region in August with proposals to begin talks the following month on a final Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement, in hopes of completing them within six months.

interim peace accords, such as Israel's failure to establish a land passage for Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza. However, no progress was reported.

The final settlement is to address the Palestinians' aspirations for full statehood as well as thorny issues like the future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlers and Palestinian refugees.

To address the Palestinians' fears, the U.S. is proposing that the talks begin concurrent to another Israeli pullout from at least 12 per cent of the West Bank, the TV said.

The Palestinians currently have full or partial autonomy in just over a quarter of the territory, and Israel has pledged to carry out three further pullbacks. In March Mr. Netanyahu offered a first-phase pullout of two per cent of the land. The Palestinians rejected that as too little and it was never implemented.

Also Thursday, Israel announced it had uncovered a Hamas cell and arrested 16 of its militant members who were planning another attack on Israel. A statement from the Israeli army said the cell had been operating since 1993 in the West Bank and had targeted two Israeli soldiers and four civilians over the years. According to the statement, those arrested had been planning to use explosives in its next attack along a central West Bank highway.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks against Israel since Israel-Palestinian peace-making first began in 1993 including the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe in March which killed three Israeli women and the bomber.

suggested this earlier this year, but the Palestinians reacted coolly, fearing he was trying to evade Israel's remaining commitments under the interim autonomy accords.

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Lebanon condom ad focuses on sensuality

LONDON (R) — An advertising campaign for condoms in Lebanon has done away with traditional safe sex warnings in favour of a message about sensuality, London international group PLC, maker of Durex condoms, said Friday.

"Worldwide consumer research found that young adults in particular need positive encouragement to practise safer sex. Lectures about the threat of AIDS are not enough," said Leigh Taylor, Durex regional manager for the Middle East. The ad, which carries the message feeling is the importance of touch and feeling through the use of a central character who is blind, "The ad raises awareness about safer sex and emphasises that there is no need to abandon sensuality for protection," said Taylor.

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